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Teachers' dispute puts opening of school year in a...

HUNDREDS of thousands of school-children went to bed last night without knowing whether they would indeed begin the first day of school today, as members of the Histadrut Teachers Union remained deadlocked with the government over pay rises and other issues.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein were meeting with the teachers late last night to try to resolve the dispute.

"I'm convinced that the teachers will demonstrate maturity and I'm sure that the school year will open as planned," Rubinstein said, at the start of the late-

night meeting.

But outgoing Treasury wage director Shalom Granit, speaking after the meeting, professed to be less optimistic, saying some of the gaps between the two sides were "substantive."

The Histadrut union, representing kindergarten, elementary school and high school teachers, was still standing firm last night on a demand that its members receive a 40 percent wage increment because of their linkage to the engineers' wage scale.

The Histadrut union was also at loggerheads with the ministry over a plan to

put non-tenured teachers on private contracts, especially in development areas and along the confrontation lines.

On this issue, Granit said he did not understand the union's objection, noting there was no other way to ameliorate teacher shortages in outlying areas, and that only 600 teachers were to be hired on such contracts. "Six hundred teachers out of 70,000 and the union has objections. Well, I'm sorry, but we are standing firm on this."

Histadrut Teachers Union head Avra-

ham Ben-Shabbat said the teachers would make every effort to open the school year on time, and would continue meeting with Treasury officials through the night. "But we want the teachers to return to work feeling their problems have been settled."

Earlier, the two ministers had met with representatives of the Association of Secondary School Teachers, which represents the high school and some junior high school teachers. That union had come to an agreement in principle

with the ministries regarding their wage accord, but the sides were still trying to hammer out a final version of the pact.

Association chairwoman Shosh Oren said that since the wording of the agreement had long-term implications, her members did not consider the dispute over until it was finalized. She said the school year would not open unless they had a signed agreement.

The Education Ministry's budget this year is NIS 12 billion, the second largest after that of the Defense Ministry.

In Jerusalem, a "situation room" equipped with specially programmed

computers and a... already being set up, with any hitches that morning - provided the situation room will be at 6:30 this morning.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Rabin and Rubinstein will visit in Holon and Yehud today while Ezer Weizman and his wife Re will visit schools in Ramle and Lod.

Many state-religious schools began classes earlier this week, to give pupils extra religious instruction before Rosh Hashana, which falls next week.

Israel rejects Egyptian plea to sign nuclear treaty

Peres: Iran thinks of us as a collective Salman Rushdie



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and his counterpart, Shimon Peres, walk past the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising memorial at Yad Vashem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

ISRAEL yesterday for the first time flatly and explicitly stated it will not sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), in response to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa's plea. Expanding and amending the treaty, which is subject to renewal in 1995, has been repeatedly declared a top foreign policy priority by US President Bill Clinton.

Neither Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin nor Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reiterated Israel's longtime position that "Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East."

Rather, they provided a strategic rationale for the reluctance to sign the treaty.

Both Rabin and Peres said that until the entire region is part of a comprehensive peace and arms control regime, Israel cannot sign the treaty, which bans countries from giving nuclear weapons to countries which do not have them and subjects countries that possess nuclear capability to international inspection. In his meeting yesterday morning with Rabin, Moussa said Israel should sign the NPT as a first step of regional disarmament.

"We do not need weapons of mass destruction," Moussa said. "We do not need nuclear weapons here... when we progress with the establishment of peace with Jordan, with the Palestinians, Lebanese, the Syrians and the other Arab countries, why should we need weapons of mass destruction or any weapons in an arms race?"

Every country should have the capability of defending itself, he added, "but not go beyond that."

Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said last night they expect increased pressure to be exerted on Israel to sign the treaty now that it has declared it will not sign.

"We know there will be pressure, but there are also presidential elections in the US in 1996 that we hoped would alleviate those pressures," said a senior Foreign Ministry source. "So the question is, why did Rabin and Peres have to declare it now? It will only bring about further unnecessary pressures from the international community."

Egypt refuses to sign the Chemical Warfare Convention treaty (CWC) until Israel signs the NPT, equating the two as forms of mass destruction. Israel signed the CWC in Paris in 1993, while Egypt declared it will adhere to the treaty, but not sign it.

ALON PINKAS

Israel, India, and Pakistan are the only three countries believed to be members of the "nuclear weapons club" which have yet to sign the 1968 NPT. The case of Iraq, which signed the treaty, is frequently evoked by Israel as an example of the ineffectiveness of the treaty.

Rabin reportedly told Moussa that Egypt could not guarantee the nuclear policies of Syria, or Iran and Iraq, which is why Israel cannot sign the NPT. These countries, as well as Libya, said Rabin, do not participate in the multilateral Arms Control and Regional Security talks.

Israel would be willing to negotiate a comprehensive regional arms control agreement, Rabin stressed, but it must include the entire region.

In a joint press conference with Moussa later in the day, Peres said the situation is analogous to a two-story house.

"The first floor is the comprehensive peace we must attain in the region," Peres said. "The second is controlling and dismantling mass destruction weapons. The second floor cannot be erected before the first." He added that countries such as Iraq, Libya, and Iran, which are intent on destroy-

ing Israel, have also not signed the NPT.

Iran, said Peres, views Israel as a "collective Salman Rushdie." He added that Israel would not agree to a nuclear ban unless it could verify that enemies like Iran do not produce atomic weapons.

Aside from the nuclear issue, which dominated much of the meeting with Rabin, the two discussed the peace process at length. Rabin said that terror originating from the Gaza Strip threatens further implementation of the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

"The Palestinian Police could and should act against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists... Prisoners from these organizations will not be freed until terror stops," Rabin said. He reiterated that the PLO is under obligation to change articles in the Palestinian Covenant, and told Moussa the economy of the Gaza Strip is deteriorating because Arafat is incapable of establishing a financial mechanism to distribute funds from donor nations.

Rabin also elaborated his proposed plan for an agreement between Israel and Lebanon. He outlined a nine-month gradual withdrawal plan, contingent upon the Lebanese government disarming Hizbullah and other militias and deploying the Lebanese Army in the south.

Moussa visits Yad Vashem; invites Weizman to Egypt

BATSHEVA TSUR

EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Amr Moussa visited Yad Vashem yesterday, ending a week-long bilateral controversy.

Moussa arrived at the Holocaust memorial authority for a 20-minute compromise visit, which excluded the usual visit to the museum and wreath-laying ceremony at the Hall of Remembrance. On Tuesday, Moussa backedtracked on an earlier decision not to include Yad Vashem on his schedule during his two-day official visit.

The Egyptian minister listened attentively to explanations from Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev, as he and Peres walked down the Avenue of Righteous Gentiles, past the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Memorial and the cenotaph to the six million.

The party then made its way slowly through the Children's Memorial, the chamber of which is lit only by thousands of dim flickering lights.

Emerging from the memorial, Moussa paused, then wrote in the visitors' book: "This visit brought back memories of the crimes against fellow human beings based on racial feelings that are abhorrent. I only hope that the future shall never permit that to

happen again to any nation, any people... any children."

Moussa said his visit was so short because of scheduling pressures. "It is a unique place," he said of Yad Vashem.

Earlier, Moussa met at Beit Hanassi with President Ezer Weizman, and said he had invited the president to visit Egypt.

But Weizman reportedly responded that he would be glad to visit after President Hosni Mubarak fixed a date to come here, pointing out that the Egyptian president had been in power 12 years and had never visited here.

"He will be my personal guest," Weizman said. The visitor also raised the issue of denuclearizing the region with Weizman.

The president, for his part, asked that the Egyptians step up their efforts to find the bodies of Israeli soldiers still missing in action on Egyptian soil.

Moussa returned to Egypt last night.

Orient House upstairs, Page 2

Moussa sides with Copts, Page 3

IRA cease-fire wins acclaim, suspicion

News agencies

LONDON - The Irish Republican Army, one of the most tenacious of Europe's guerrilla organizations, declared a cease-fire yesterday that prompted both acclaim and suspicion.

Northern Ireland's Protestant leaders said they feared Britain had struck a secret deal with the IRA behind their backs and stood ready to betray the majority community. London denied it.

Protestant death squads who kill Roman Catholics at random to terrorize the community from which the guerrillas draw support gave no hint that they would match the IRA step.

On often-bombed Belfast streets, there was joy in Catholic ghettos and grim resignation in Protestant strongholds.

US President Bill Clinton was unambiguous in his response, saying it marked a new era for Irish people.

In Dublin, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds welcomed the move, the first fruit of a joint

peace initiative he and British counterpart John Major launched last December.

The Anglo-Irish Downing Street Declaration offers Sinn Fein a seat at peace talks and an end to its isolation three months after Europe's most formidable guerrilla army silences its Kalashnikov rifles and home-made mortars.

A jubilant Reynolds promised in a triumphant speech to parliament that there was "no hidden agenda."

Major said he was encouraged by the cease-fire statement but needed to know it was for good if Sinn Fein, the IRA's political voice, wanted to join talks. He denied any secret deal.

"Once we have that I think we can move forward," Major said.

Privately, British officials acknowledged that if the IRA proved over the next three months or so that it could hold to a cease-

fire, that would probably count as permanent.

Initial euphoria quickly gave way to political reality though as Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, demanded freedom for IRA prisoners and a withdrawal of British troops.

Injustice must be ended, demilitarization must begin immediately, he said. "All political prisoners must be released. The British government must immediately recognize Sinn Fein's democratic mandate."

Hard-line Protestants such as Ulster Unionist Party leader James Molyneux grudgingly welcomed the cease-fire declaration but said it made no mention of the IRA handing over an estimated 300 tons of arms.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, who in the past has rallied Protestant opposition to compromise, said the announcement was "a clever Jesuitical expression - 'complete ces-

sation of violence.' For how long?"

"Can you show me one word that says that they have renounced, that they have had a change of heart, that they are sorry for what they have done, that they are deeply and bitterly sorry for the mayhem they have caused?" Paisley told BBC TV.

At the rally in West Belfast yesterday, Adams repeated his demands for an early meeting between Sinn Fein and British officials, the end of Britain's broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein, IRA supporters, and "demilitarization" - Sinn Fein parlance for the gradual withdrawal of army and police patrols from Catholic areas; 40 men would be easiest. The Irish government dropped its own ban earlier this year, while British broadcasters have made their contribution to the six-year-old restrictions farcical by dubbing interviews using actors' voices.

Britain cautious, Page 4

Deri trial set to begin today after months of orchestrated delay

EVELYN GORDON

THE first witnesses in the trial of former Interior Minister Aryeh Deri will testify today, after numerous attempts by Deri and his lawyers to postpone the start of the trial failed.

Deri is being charged with bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust and falsifying corporate documents. The indictment al-

leges that between 1985 and 1990, he received more than \$150,000 from three other Shas activists - Yom Tov Rubin and Moshe and Arye Weinberg - in exchange for using his influence at the Interior Ministry to help associations with which all four were involved. The other three will also be defendants at the trial.

al, which is being heard in the Jerusalem District Court before Judges Ya'acov Zemah, Miriam Naor and Moussia Arad.

Deri will be represented by attorneys Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Amnon Zichroni, after the High Court of Justice refused on Tuesday to allow them to resign. Today's witnesses will be

Shmaryahu Cohen, former head of the Jerusalem region in the Housing Ministry, and former Housing Ministry director-general Amos Unger. Both will apparently be questioned about the Har Shmuel affair, one of the main items in the indictment.

This affair involved the sale of land in Jerusalem's Har Shmuel neighborhood to religious families who wanted to build homes. Since the land was not zoned for construction, the families were unable to build, and they threatened the organization which sold the land with lawsuits. To protect it, Deri

allegedly used his clout at the ministry to obtain alternative lands, which were worth more for the affected families.

The other major affair in the indictment is an alleged conspiracy by the four defendants to defraud various government ministries of some NIS 787,000 for the benefit of a

non-profit organization.

Deri is also charged with appointing Moshe Weinberg as head of the Lehavim local council, despite his lack of qualifications.

The indictment also contains six charges which relate only to the other three defendants, and not to Deri.

Poland opens first Jewish school in over 25 years

WARSAW (AP) - Rabbi Michael Schudrich nailed a mezuza onto the classroom door of the first Jewish school in Poland in 25 years, and gave the 15 first-graders gathered at his feet their first lesson.

"This is what Jews have put on their doors for thousands of years," Schudrich said. "It reminds us that God wants us to

do good things."

Yesterday, a tiny piece of Poland's religious diversity was returning with the opening of the Lauder-Morasha school.

Ronald S. Lauder, chairman of the Lauder Foundation which sponsors the school in a spacious Warsaw villa, called it a link in a long chain of Jewish history that he hopes will reach far into the future.

Poland's last Jewish school, in the central city of Lodz, was closed in 1969 by the country's Communist rulers during an antisemitic purge.

The new school's program, approved by the Polish

education ministry, will include Hebrew, Jewish tradition and culture, English, art, sports and the basics of the Polish primary schools' curriculum.

Helise E. Lieberman of New York, the school director, gave thanks to Jewish groups and individuals who helped organize the school in a few months.

She hopes the one-class school, with Polish pupils and one American - Lieberman's daughter - will grow. A Jewish kindergarten has been open in Warsaw since 1989.

Non-Jews are welcome in the school, whose classrooms had stickers with the Polish and

English names of objects.

Lauder has also opened Jewish primary schools in Vienna and Budapest. A kindergarten will open in Prague in a few days. His foundation pays much of the Warsaw school's budget, while parents pay 2.5 million zlotys (\$111) monthly.

Schudrich, of New York, recently called the school a milestone for the 5,000 remaining Jews in Poland.

"This is more than a minor miracle," he told The Associated Press. "We had hoped for five children and we have 15."

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Early empowerment will be unless Arafat curbs terror

EVERLYN GORDON and news agencies

an Israeli withdrawal from population centers. But Rabin said the Palestinians had to show an ability to control violence before elections could go ahead.

"It is better to do things in an orderly fashion, we don't have to hurry for elections in the territories," Rabin said.

At a special Knesset session yesterday, Likud faction head Moshe Katsav blasted the government for overlooking the PLO's numerous violations of the Cairo accords: the fact that Gaza and Jericho have become refuges for terrorists, the opening of diplomatic missions there, and the PLO's announcement that it does not intend to change the Palestinian Covenant.

Instead of taking action against these violations, Katsav charged, the government signed the early empowerment agreement as if nothing had happened.

"You have the tools to deal with this," he said. "There is no reason to expand autonomy in the rest of Judea and Samaria as long as the PLO isn't fulfilling its obligations. And as a prize for acts of murder and violations of the

agreement, [Palestinian] prisoners are being released!"

"Arafat won't ever [fight Hamas]," Katsav continued, citing the statement of the Gaza police chief that he was never told to arrest the Ramle murderers. "It's to his advantage for Hamas to attack Israeli citizens, even within the Green Line. For him it is a means of exerting pressure."

MK Yigal Bibi (NRP) launched a scathing attack on the government's refusal to open the Machpela Cave for the High Holy Days.

"All governments of Israel have insisted that there be freedom of worship, and that everyone have access to the holy places," Bibi said.

Now, however, for six months, neither Jews nor Moslems have been able to enter the cave, he said.

This is not the army's fault, he added; it is the government which has failed to give the army instructions on how to prepare.

Yosef Ba-Gad (Molodet) added that Arab attacks on roads or the Temple Mount have never led to the affected area being closed for

more than a day; it is ridiculous that Machpela should be closed for six months because of an attack by a Jew, he said.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who replied to all these motions

PLO press cards read 'Jerusalem, Palestine'

ORIENT House press cards bearing the designation, "Jerusalem, Palestine" caused a storm during yesterday's special Knesset session, with representatives of both Likud and Tsomet demanding that the government take action to stop PLO activity there.

The press cards were issued to journalists covering a press conference given at Orient House by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

"We do not accept individual actions toward Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a subject of negotiations at a later stage as agreed upon," Moussa said, before entering the meeting at Orient House.

for the government, said with regard to the PLO that terror has decreased since the agreement was signed, and that the government will insist that the Palestinians do their part to maintain this trend.

"Above all, we demand that they fulfill the agreement, and we will insist on this," he said, noting that the PLO's efforts to capture terrorists would provide the real test of its government.

Regarding the Machpela Cave, Shahal said the government's prime consideration was security. The government must take every precaution to ensure that another massacre doesn't occur, he said, because if it did, the government could not claim that no one had foreseen such a thing.

The government is now working on a plan to physically separate Jewish and Arab worshippers within the cave, except on holidays, when the cave would be open only to the celebrant community, Shahal said.

In line with the Shamgar Committee's recommendation, he added, a special police unit has been set up to guard the site, but the unit will not be fully trained until October.

Rabin: Bhutto can visit Gaza

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

IN an attempt to defuse a diplomatic incident, Israel yesterday said Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto can visit the Gaza Strip without meeting any Israelis.

Visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa brokered an agreement with Rabin on Tuesday, whereby Bhutto and her entourage would fly into the Egyptian part of Rafiah.

The Egyptians would pass Bhutto's travel documents on to the Israelis for stamping. Bhutto could then fly into Gaza without encountering any Israelis at the border crossing.

But Pakistani officials are now saying it is too late to reschedule the visit. Israel acted too slowly in granting permission for Bhutto to visit the Gaza Strip, Foreign Minister spokesman Munir Akram said yesterday in Islamabad.

Pakistan will not reschedule the visit, Akram said. "It's too late now. I think the unpleasant remarks have not contributed to creating the right atmosphere."

However Israel Television re-

ported last night that Bhutto may visit Gaza on Monday.

The dispute began Sunday when Israel barred Pakistan's ambassador to Tunis, T.K. Khan, from entering Gaza to prepare Bhutto's visit. Khan notified Palestinians in advance, but Israel said he had to coordinate directly with the Israeli authorities, which remain responsible for Gaza's external relations.

At a Labor Party meeting yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he was misunderstood in comments Monday when he said "the lady from Pakistan should be taught some manners" for not asking Israel for permission to visit.

"She [Bhutto] can learn manners from whomsoever she wants," Rabin said yesterday. "The problem is the translation of what was said. Now it has ended well."

Lawmakers in Pakistan condemned Rabin's remarks during Tuesday's session of Parliament. Even her political opponents, who blamed the diplomatic fiasco on Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, were critical of Israel.

Israel, Jordan and US discuss economic projects

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

ISRAELI, Jordanian and American officials gathered here yesterday for trilateral economic talks, aimed at generating international business investment in joint projects.

While specific projects were not decided upon, the sides agreed to prepare terms of reference for pursuing Jordan Rift Valley ventures during October's multinational business conference in Casablanca.

Projects discussed in the past include a trans-border park and a canal linking the Dead and Red seas. The level of investors' interest at Casablanca will determine what future feasibility studies will be done, Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein told reporters here.

Asked whether Amman is likely

to permit Israeli tourists to visit Jordan prior to the signing of a peace treaty, Rubinstein said that remains a possibility, depending on Jordan's satisfaction with the negotiations.

The foreign ministers of all three countries are due to meet later this month, either at the opening UN session in New York or during an upcoming return visit to the region of Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he added.

Yesterday a joint Israeli-Jordanian delegation toured the Sheikh Hussein Bridge in the Beit She'an Valley, and decided that the bridge would be the site of the northern border crossing between the two countries.

The decision was based on the likelihood that Jordan will eventually transport goods to and from Haifa via the bridge.

Two killed, five hurt on roads

SOLDIER Aliza Hadad, 19, of Ma'aleh Adumim, was killed yesterday when the car she was riding in tried to pass another car and crashed into an oncoming truck near Ma'aleh Adumim. The car was thrown back into the right lane, where it hit the car it had tried to pass.

The driver of the car Hadad was in and another passenger were seriously injured. The driver of the other car was lightly injured.

Since Hadad was a cadet in an officers' course, she was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant after her death.

In a second fatal accident yesterday, a 30-year-old man was killed and two persons were injured when their car collided with a cement mixer at the western exit of Beit She'an.

The car, driven by a tourist from France, apparently failed to halt at a stop sign and ran into the truck. The dead man was sitting next to the driver, who suffered medium-to-severe injuries. The driver's wife, who was sitting in the rear seat, suffered light-to-medium injuries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More attacks in security zone

An IDF armored vehicle went over a mine in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday afternoon, as the daily round of attacks continued.

There were no reports of any casualties among the IDF soldiers or any serious damage to the vehicle as a result of the attack, which occurred along the Anzama-Rehan road.

Meanwhile, Nabih Berri, leader of the Amal Shi'ite movement, declared yesterday that the Lebanese would continue their fight against "Israeli occupation forces" until the south was liberated.

Revava evacuation stopped for negotiations

The evacuation of 13 Revava families, who squatted in government-built housing in the settlement was halted yesterday after settler representatives and the construction company that built the homes agreed to negotiate about the future of the housing units.

On Friday, 13 families, who had been living in mobile homes in the settlement for up to three years, occupied the homes. They claimed the homes were completed, but that the Housing Ministry was not letting the Asdar construction company put them up for sale for political reasons.

Police began removing the families' belongings from the homes in the morning, but stopped when the compromise was reached.

Bonn first to open mission in Jericho

Germany yesterday opened a representative office in Jericho, the first country to set up a mission in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

The office will mainly oversee the spending of German aid to the Palestinians, some \$200 million through 1998, said Theodor Wallau, director-general of the German Foreign Ministry.

"This is neither an embassy nor a consulate," said Wallau, referring to the clause in the Israeli-Palestinian accord under which Israel remains in control of foreign policy in the territories.

Saeed Erakat, a minister in the Palestinian self-rule government, said he hoped the opening of the mission would eventually lead to higher-level representation.

Ben-Eliezer to meet Arafat today

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer is due to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza today.

Ben-Eliezer refused to divulge the agenda of the meeting. But sources close to Arafat said the chairman intends to protest Israel's conduct concerning the Pakistani ambassador, who was detained for nine hours at the Rafiah border crossing.

Arafat will also raise the issue of the "safe passages" between Gaza and Jericho with Ben-Eliezer.

Shaath blasts Machpela division

JON IMMANUEL and Itim

NABIL Shaath, planning minister in the Palestinian Authority, paid a surprise visit to Hebron yesterday and criticized the decision to divide the Tomb of the Patriarchs into permanently separate areas for Moslem and Jewish worshippers.

"I think it is very wrong to mutilate a place of worship. Even though it is a place of worship of two religions, it should not be divided," Shaath said after he was not permitted beyond the eighth step, leading to the structure.

His visit came a day after rabbis were permitted inside to inspect new security arrangements. The Machpela Cave, known to Moslems as the Ibrahim Mosque is not expected to open for at least two months.

The Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian press, and Islamic notables have been very critical of the new security procedures, saying they give Jews more rights than Moslems - even though it was a massacre of 29 worshipping Moslems by a Jewish gunman which led to the closure of the building.

"What should be done is to make sure there are strict arrangements, make sure that people do not take their arms and go inside with them, make sure that what happened does not happen again," Shaath said.

Meanwhile OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran yesterday issued an order barring released Kach activist Noam Federman from entering "sensitive" areas in Judea and Samaria, such as the Machpela Cave.

Police officers delivered the order to Federman's Hebron home yesterday evening, but Federman is not home and his wife refused to accept it.

Federman told Itim by telephone that he would not accept the order and said he intends to hold his son's circumcision at Machpela Cave on Sunday.



Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath (left) and Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe meet the press yesterday outside Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs. (Brian Handier)

Probe into lapse of discipline among Palestinian security force

JON IMMANUEL

SERIOUS lack of discipline within the Palestinian security services is being investigated by Palestinian officials, following an incident last week in which Palestinian security officers fired on their colleagues, killing one.

In another incident, PLO leader Yasser Arafat ordered the imprisonment yesterday of 25 of his own bodyguards, who fired their weapons in celebration at a wedding, in violation of an order against such use of firearms.

Nidal Khuli, 25, was shot in Beit Lid, east of Tulkarm, on Saturday. The security men who killed him and wounded up to six others were apparently members of the Preventive Security Services, headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub.

The Beit Lid incident was the latest and most serious of three or four similar recent occurrences, Palestinian sources said.

Brig. Adel Salah, the commander of the presidential guard, resigned yesterday, accusing Arafat of taking no action to apprehend those suspected in the shooting incident.

Whichever version is correct, it seems clear that both the Preventive Security Force and the Presidential Guard have armed members operating in the Tulkarm area, which is outside the Palestinian Authority.

Arafat has established at least five different security forces, so as to prevent anyone from gaining a monopoly on armed force. They are competing among themselves for power and influence, leading to armed attacks, sources said. Salah accused Arafat in a letter of inaction against "the violations against our own people."

The wedding celebrants who opened fire at the Palestine Hotel in Gaza City Tuesday evening were apparently guilty of reckless but relatively innocent horseplay. Several senior Palestinian Authority officials were at the wedding.

The Palestinian Authority has officially banned shooting in the air during celebrations, a common practice in Arab countries.

Arafat ordered the immediate arrest of all those who had fired their weapons.

Three life terms for Hamas killer

THE Ramallah Military Court yesterday sentenced a Hamas terrorist to three consecutive life terms after convicting him of killing three Israelis, including a General Security Service agent.

Ali Anudi, 19, of Khan Yunis, was found guilty of the drive-by murder in Ramallah last December of Elyahu Levin and Meir Mendelovich of Bnei Brak. He was also one of three terrorists who killed GSS agent Noam Cohen, who was lured to his death by informer Abdel Naji in February. Anudi was captured four months ago near Jerusalem in a shootout. Naji was killed by security forces about three months ago. (Itim)

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Due to a technical problem, the announcement of yesterday's Rotary Club meeting did not appear in the paper. The meeting was addressed by His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, Malcolm Ferguson. A Happy New Year to All from the Rotary Club.

Shohat yields to pressure from local authorities for joint action

JOSE ROSENFELD

BOWING to pressure from development town officials, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat agreed yesterday to establish a joint committee with the Union of Local Authorities and development town representatives to plan how to implement the Treasury's proposal to reduce subsidies to investors in development areas.

Following last week's announcement of the Treasury's proposal to cut subsidies to businesses in development zone A from 38 percent to 30% and from 25% to 20% in zone B, development town officials appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to oppose the plan, which they feared would worsen their economic situation.

In a veiled attack on Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, Shohat said that development town officials were misled by "messengers" who had an interest in undermining the plan, by misleading the officials regarding the substance of the proposed changes.

The Treasury proposes to invest the money saved by the subsidy cuts in the towns themselves. According to Treasury officials, the subsidies reduction would save between NIS 40 million and NIS 50m. next year, and about NIS 250m. over the following three years. Under the Treasury plan, this money would go to the localities instead of into the pockets of investors.

The joint committee will come up with a plan how to exactly apportion this money to the development towns.

Shohat yesterday informed Union of Local Authorities chairman Adi Eldar and Development Town Forum chairman Gabi Laloush of his intention to form the joint committee, a decision which they welcomed. The committee is expected to issue its recommendations within three months.

As a result of this decision, the cabinet debate on the Treasury's proposal, scheduled for Sunday, was canceled.

The Board of Directors, Rosh Yeshiva, Staff, and Students of Machon Meir, Jerusalem, deeply mourn the death of

RABBI ISAAC J. BERNSTEIN

Rabbi of Finchley Synagogue, London

who served as a trustee of the
British Friends of Machon Meir

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבל ציון וירושלים

The U.S. Consulate General announces with deep regret the passing of our dear colleague

DONA P. SHERMAN

Former Chief of the Jerusalem Consular Section

August 27, 1994, in Egypt

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin greets Vatican Ambassador Msgr. Andres Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo yesterday at President Ezer Weizman's annual New Year's reception for the diplomatic corps. The agreement reached between Israel and the PLO was 'not an easy enterprise for both sides and there is still a very rough road ahead,' Weizman told the gathering. Noting that the papal nuncio was among the many new envoys, Weizman said he hopes to see a Jordanian ambassador soon, as well as representatives of other Arab countries. Ivory Coast Ambassador Jean-Pierre Boni, replying as dean of the corps, quoted poet Natan Alterman, in Hebrew: '[Peace] is not given on a silver platter,' he said, adding from Theodor Herzl: 'If you will it, it is no dream.' The Beit Hanassi reception was also attended by heads of the various UN forces in the area and military attaches. (Text: Basheva Tsor; photo: Stein/Flarun)

Moussa visit won't affect Holy Sepulchre dispute, says Foreign Ministry

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE visit by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and his expressions of sympathy with the Copts in their dispute with the Ethiopians there will not change the situation at the site, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

He was referring to the issue of Deir el-Sultan, a complex which includes a stairway from the parvis of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to the roof of the building, providing access to both Ethiopian and Coptic monasteries. The keys to the complex had been in the hands of the Copts until Easter 1970, when the Ethiopians changed the locks while the Copts were at prayer, a move which the Copts charge was made with the cooperation of the Israel Police.

Since then, the issue has remained an emotionally charged one for both Copts and Ethiopians, as evidenced by a shoving match which quickly developed between monks from the two communities during the visit. Ethiopians tried to keep the Coptic clergy

from entering the Chapel of the Four Beasts, the upper of the two chapels in the complex. The police allowed the Coptic archbishop, Dr. Anba Abraham, to enter the chapel, but kept the other Coptic clerics out.

For the Copts, the visit was a major show of sympathy from the foreign minister of their native land, where members of their community have been the victims of continued attacks by Moslem fundamentalists in recent years. Moussa made a point of calling at the Coptic part of the tomb of Jesus at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and he set back his schedule by close to an hour by meeting with the archbishop at the Coptic Monastery, where another shoving match developed as Ethiopian monks who tried to gain access were refused entry.

During the meeting, the Coptic archbishop told Moussa that in the

same way that Egypt had insisted on having the every grain of sand in Sinai returned, and in recovering Taba, so too the Copts were determined to recover control of Deir el-Sultan. The Egyptian foreign minister assured Abraham that he would do everything possible to return the complex to the Copts.

However, an Ethiopian official said that the Israeli Foreign Ministry had given its assurance that there would be no substantive changes in the situation at Deir el-Sultan as a result of Moussa's visit.

"We have received a signal from the Foreign Ministry," said Ethiopian Charges d'Affaires Desalegn Alemu.

Eitan Margalit, head of the Foreign Ministry's church relations department, confirmed the Ethiopian official's statement.

"It is true. I don't know if you could call it an assurance, but we saw to it that they would know that there would be no changes there because of the visit," Margalit said.

TA police bust big-time drug ring

Undercover agent infiltrates operation

RAINE MARCUS

FOLLOWING four months of intensive surveillance, including phone tapping and filming drug transactions, 100 Tel Aviv detectives and border policemen raided apartments in Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, Holon, and Lod early yesterday morning, arresting 14 alleged drug dealers.

Police said they cracked what they describe as a massive drug-smuggling ring by using an undercover agent who infiltrated the gang in an operation dubbed "Settling Accounts."

Narcotics detectives, headed by Chief Supt. Menahem Frank, also seized property and assets valued at a record NIS 4 million, including plots of land, apartments, luxury cars, electronic items and NIS 130,000 in cash, all believed to be the profits of international drug trafficking. They are to apply to the district court for permission to sell the goods, with proceeds going to the government.

All the suspects are known to police as dealers, and transactions with the undercover agent, himself a dealer, were recorded. Three suspects are allegedly responsible for smuggling large amounts of heroin from Turkey and Europe. Three others, from a Lod clan, have records for drug offenses.

Those arrested are some of the biggest smugglers and dealers in

the area," said Frank. "Our operation will certainly prevent the smuggling of many kilograms of heroin here in the near future. Drug addicts can look forward to a drought."

Two weeks ago police financed the purchase by the agent of 2.5 kilograms of high quality heroin for \$100,000. Detectives hope "to recoup their investment" when the gang's seized goods are sold.

The agent, Ilan Rubi, 29, of Tel Aviv, agreed to help police bring about the gang's downfall in exchange for the dropping of charges against him. A known street dealer, police helped him "graduate" into the world of international smuggling.

He gained gang members' trust, and was even given two kilograms of heroin to keep for them. One member confided in him that he had recently robbed a money changer of NIS 50,000.

Another member was arrested a few months ago after police discovered 18 kilograms of heroin buried in a Holon field. Although detectives were certain the drugs belonged to him, the man was later released for lack of evidence.

The gang arrested yesterday was about to organize a shipment of heroin from Turkey, said Frank, but police pounced after deciding they already had sufficient evidence to convict.

'Ministry barring TV, radio ads explaining new smoking law'

JUDY SIEGEL

THE head of the Health Ministry's occupational health unit maintains that the ministry's new spokeswoman barred her from using unit funds for TV and radio announcements to promote observance of the law that will restrict smoking in all workplaces.

Dr. Alma Avni, head of the occupational health unit, was asked yesterday by *The Jerusalem Post* what the ministry was doing to ensure widespread observance of the law, signed by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh six weeks ago, which is to go into effect on October 19. At the signing, Sneh said he had no plans to spend ministry money on a TV and radio campaign to promote observance.

Avni, a former head of the min-

istry's public health department, was asked by Sneh to coordinate ministry efforts regarding the law. She told the *Post* that she had "enough money" in her regular budget for TV and radio public service ads and three weeks ago had brought such a proposal to spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai, a former publicity worker in the Histadrut, who was brought in by Sneh.

But Ben-Hai "told me I couldn't use the money for this purpose, as TV and radio announcements were not high enough on the ministry's list of priorities," Avni said.

Ben-Hai would not confirm or deny Avni's statement, but said the ministry "will use whatever means it deems suitable for ex-

plaining and encouraging the observance of the new law. I am in charge of all information in the ministry; I haven't had time to deal with this matter [publicity for the anti-smoking law], but we will sit and consider it in the near future."

Asked if she had enough time to launch an informational campaign in the media or by other means in six weeks (which includes many holidays), Ben-Hai said she could if she chose to do so.

Avni said her six-employee unit, which is responsible for promoting health among workers, has sent letters to hundreds of workplaces to explain the law, which will per-

mit smoking at work only if the employer agrees and only in closed smoking areas. The law is to be in effect for a year, after which it will be evaluated by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee and the health minister.

At the latest meeting of the Anti-Smoking Forum (which includes representatives of the Israel Cancer Association, Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking and other major public organizations), all agreed that a TV and radio campaign would be among the most effective tools to ensure public compliance with the new law, which according to polls is supported by 90 percent of all residents - including more than 70 percent of smokers. They added

that the Health Ministry, in charge of public health, should bear responsibility for financing and organizing such an effort.

So far, the Society for the Prevention of Smoking, a voluntary group funded by donations, has committed itself to pay for some radio announcements before October 19, and the public will be referred for more information to the Cancer Association's Telemedia phone information service.

A member of the forum noted that since the ministry spends hundreds of thousands of shekels each year on promoting World AIDS Day, "it should do no less for the law restricting smoking, which kills many more Israelis each year."

Thousands of housing units approved in Jerusalem area

BILL HUTMAN

THE government has given the go-ahead for the construction of over 6,000 new housing units in communities in the Jerusalem District, to ease the housing shortage there.

The Interior Ministry announced yesterday that the Committee for Expediting Construction had held a special summer session to approve the three plans.

The committee approved the construction of 4,500 units in Beit Shemesh, 1,000 units in Mevaseret Yerushalayim, and 650 units in Tzur Hadassah, the ministry spokeswoman said in a statement.

The Beit Shemesh plan is the

first stage of a major project in the city to include some 30,000 new housing units, the spokeswoman said.

The committee's decision "is a breakthrough in the effort to expand Beit Shemesh, which is suffering from a severe housing shortage," she said.

The three projects also included provisions for public institutions, such as schools and synagogues, and open spaces, the ministry said.

The expediting committee is made up of representatives of several government ministries, who meet periodically to consider large-scale housing plans throughout the nation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MDA to receive advanced equipment

Friends associations of Magen David Adom from 12 countries yesterday pledged to donate in the coming year 124 ambulances and mobile intensive care units for Israel, as well as advanced equipment such as semi-automatic defibrillators and heart pumps. The donated vehicles will update MDA's fleet of ambulances. Representatives of the associations, currently meeting in Tel Aviv, said they would also finance a sophisticated communications system that will allow MDA full control both in emergencies and for everyday operations.

Military Literature awards given

The prestigious Yitzhak Sadeh Award for Military Literature was awarded last night to Yossi Leshem and Ofer Bahai for their book *Flying with the Birds* and to Nahum Bognor for his work *Sifnot Hameri* on the boats carrying illegal immigrants between 1945-48.

Pictures from Leshem and Bahai's book, studying bird migration patterns and the flight safety problems of IAF planes, also went on display yesterday at the Eretz Israel Museum in Tel Aviv.

Arkia monopoly on Eilat to end

The Arkia monopoly on scheduled flights to Eilat is to end in the middle of 1995, the Transport Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry was reacting to reports that local airlines are to compete with Arkia, either with scheduled flights or charter flights. According to the ministry, it has a policy of approving charter flights between Tel Aviv and Eilat by any airline fulfilling the safety regulations.

As for scheduled flights by an airline other than Arkia, these are likely to begin only around next June, the ministry said.

Hunting season begins

The hunting season starts today and will continue until the end of December. There are some 5,300 licensed hunters in the country, according to the Nature Reserves Authority, which is responsible for issuing licenses and enforcing hunting laws to prevent overkill.

According to the NRA, hunting is a means of preventing damage to agricultural crops by wild animals and also helps keep the population under control.

However, animal welfare groups have protested the yearly shooting season. "There is nothing 'natural' about killing defenseless animals and the populations would maintain their on natural balance without being shot at," said a spokeswoman for Let the Animals Live.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, jack of diamonds and 10 of clubs.

Nature Reserves Authority halts work by JNF

LIAT COLLINS

THE Nature Reserves Authority yesterday slapped a stop-work order on a Jewish National Fund water project in the Hula Valley, detaining the project manager and bulldozer operator for questioning.

The disputed work was being conducted in the Aziz section of Ein Gonen Nature Reserve, near the Hula Valley rehabilitated area. The reserve is relatively small, and preserves the original landscape of the Hula swamps with reeds, sugar cane and other plants.

"As part of its plans to continue to conquer the wilderness, the JNF operated heavy machinery in the reserve and as a result a section of some 200 meters long and 40 meters wide was 'shaved' of all plant life," said NRA spokeswoman Dina Weinstein.

According to the NRA, the Upper Galilee Water Irrigation Board had submitted plans to dig a canal in the area so that the spring water would not pass through the peat soil, but the plans were not approved. "In spite of this, the JNF began work in the nature reserve without prior coordination or permission and if it hadn't been for the alertness of the regional NRA warden the canal would have been dug and caused serious damage to the reserve," Weinstein said.

The JNF rejected the accusations, however. "The JNF team went into an area which was not marked in anyway," a spokeswoman there said. "The plan had been approved by the Water Commission and was carried out according to its guidelines. The JNF did not send a surveyor to the area even though they knew of the plan," said a JNF spokeswoman.

New vaccination schedule announced for children

JUDY SIEGEL

SCHOOLCHILDREN will get additional immunizations this year, as the Health Ministry expands the number of vaccines to protect them from disease.

This new schedule, says the ministry, will make Israel one of the most advanced in the world in vaccinations.

First graders will get vaccinated against measles, mumps and Ger-

man measles (rubella) in a single shot. All infants are given an anti-measles shot at the age of 15 months. In the past, they received a booster in seventh grade, but in recent years, this was moved up to first grade. Children in seventh and eighth grades this year who did

not receive the booster will get an anti-measles shot this year. Starting a year from now, the booster will be given only in first grades.

The local authorities, through the school nurses, are responsible for immunizations, which will be given before the onset of winter.

Health services in the schools are provided for a mandatory fee of NIS 49 per child. This includes medical checkups (to identify vision, hearing and skeletal problems); vaccinations, and health-promotion lessons.

Parents are advised to ensure that these services are provided by schools and to inform the ministry if they are dissatisfied.

Israel, Russia pledge cooperation in space research

JUDY SIEGEL

THE space agencies of Israel and Russia yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in civilian and commercial uses of space, especially the development of communications satellites.

According to the memorandum, the two space agencies will be able to "consider freely and mutually the economic potential of space

industries and research in each of the countries." Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, chairman of the Israel Space Agency and a former science minister, signed for Israel, and his Russian counterpart was Yuri Koptev.

The Russian Space Agency is said to be the largest in the world,

with half a million workers and dozens of factories; it has launched 160 satellites into space so far.

Zvi Yanai, director-general of the Science and Arts Ministry, said at the Tel Aviv ceremony that Russia is a "space power with much experience and developed physical infrastructure. I am glad

that we will be able to make use of this experience and hope to make as much scientific and economic use as possible from this connection."

Israel Space Agency officials said Israel aims during the next decade to expand its science industries and services to as much as \$200 million; cooperation with Russia will boost these predictions.

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Britain says IRA cease-fire must be 'permanent'

BRITAIN cautiously embraced the IRA cease-fire announced yesterday but, nervous about a Protestant backlash, said one word was missing — "permanent."

Prime Minister John Major insisted he was not quibbling in the face of a "very great chance for peace" in Northern Ireland, but needed assurance that the IRA was serious.

"I am not hung up on a particular word," Major said in a television interview. "I don't mind how it is expressed but I do need to know that the violence has ended for good and it isn't a temporary

cease-fire," said Major, who has now tied his own political future to the success of a Northern Ireland peace process.

Major said he could see that the IRA may have intended a permanent cease-fire when it announced a "complete cessation" of its 25-year-old guerrilla campaign against British rule.

But, he said, it had to leave no doubt of the cease-fire's permanence. Britain would not talk under "duress" with the threat of a resumption of violence hanging over the table.

The word "permanent," British offi-

cials said, was the key factor missing in the IRA declaration.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew held out the prospect of drawing Irish Republican Army (IRA) political leaders into normal political life but said he urgently wanted to see clarification that the cease-fire was permanent.

"The word permanent didn't feature in the statement," Mayhew said of the

statement from the IRA leadership announcing a "complete cessation" of its guerrilla campaign.

Mayhew spoke after a meeting with Major and moderate Northern Ireland Protestant political James Molyneux to assess the ground-breaking IRA statement. Protestant support is crucial to the long-term peace process and both Major and Mayhew are determined to head off charges of a secret sell-out to the IRA.

"There have been no secret deals, no secret understandings," Major said in an interview with Independent Television News.

Britain and Ireland, with the backing of the White House, had insisted that the IRA agree to a "permanent" end to violence and support for violence before it could join the political process. The debate now centers on what counts as permanent.

Molyneux insisted that was vital to any peace process.

"There will be a hideous risk to life in Northern Ireland if it were only a cessa-

tion or a halt [of violence]," he said. Privately British government officials acknowledged that if the IRA proved over the next three months or so that it could hold a cease-fire, that would probably count as "permanent."

It was, they said, a matter of "words, followed by deeds."

That also applied to calls for the IRA to hand over its arms. Such a handover, one official said, was "one of the practical consequences that follow" from a permanent cease-fire and the entry of Sinn Féin into the political process. (Reuters)

Text of IRA's announcement

DUBLIN (AP) — Text of the statement by the Irish Republican Army (Oglaigh na h-Eirann) yesterday.

"Recognizing the potential of the current situation and in order to enhance the democratic peace process and underline our definitive commitment to its success, the leadership of Oglaigh na h-Eirann have decided that as of midnight, Wednesday, August 31st, there will be a complete cessation of military operations. All our units have been instructed accordingly.

"At this historic cross-roads the leadership of Oglaigh na h-Eirann salutes and commends our volunteers, other activists, our supporters and the political prisoners who have sustained this struggle, against all odds, for the past 25 years. Your courage, determination and sacrifices have demonstrated that the spirit of freedom and the desire for peace based on a just and lasting settlement cannot be crushed. We remember all those who have died for Irish freedom and we reiterate our commitment to our republican objectives.

"Our struggle has seen many gains and advances made by nationalists and for the democratic position. We believe that an opportunity to secure a just and lasting settlement has been created. We are therefore entering into a new situation in a spirit of determination and confidence, determined that the injustices which created this conflict will be removed and confident in the strength and justice of our struggle to achieve this.

"We note that the Downing Street Declaration is not a solution, nor was it presented as such by its authors. A solution will only be found as a result of inclusive negotiations. Others, not least the British government, have a duty to face up to their responsibilities. It is our desire to significantly contribute to the creation of a climate which will encourage this. We urge everyone to approach this new situation with energy, determination and patience."



A child plays ball recently against a north Belfast wall daubed with a slogan illustrating the yearning for an end to the 'Troubles.' (Reuters)

Thousands of lives, billions in cash

BELFAST (Reuters) — Twenty-five years of conflict in Northern Ireland between Irish nationalist guerrillas, security forces and pro-British Protestant gunmen have taken a heavy toll in lives and battered the province's economy.

Since the fighting began, 3,168 people have died and police estimate the Irish Republican Army killed 60 percent of them.

However, in recent years killings by Protestant gunmen have become more frequent to the point that this year, they have killed 33 people against 23 victims of the Republicans.

The British Army, sent into the streets in August 1969, has lost 445 members, and 493 police and reservists have been killed. But the vast majority of the dead were civilians, although this figure includes several hundred guerrillas.

The government estimates the conflict costs up some four billion pounds (\$6 billion) a year, including the cost of keeping a vast security force and subsidizing jobs and housing in the once prosperous province.

Security — both the cost of 18,000 troops and 12,000 police — is estimated to make up half that cost.

Yesterday's cease-fire announcement by the IRA was not the first in the 25-year-old conflict. Earlier cease-fire announcements occurred in 1972, '74, '75, '81, '91 and '94.

Following unsuccessful talks with British representatives during prison hunger strikes in 1981, the IRA ruled out any further cease-fires. "If and when the situation presents itself for negotiating a settlement... the IRA's attitude will be that it will talk and fight at the same time," the group said.

In 1990, the IRA announced three-day cease-fire over Christmas for the first time in 15 years. Similar breaks were called every succeeding year.

Earlier this year, the IRA called a three-day cease-fire over Easter looking for gestures from the British government, but Britain and Ireland rejected the brief halt as inadequate.

Current phase of Ulster conflict began in '68

BELFAST (AP) — Northern Ireland's "troubles" are rooted in nationalist conflict, religious bigotry and grudges nursed through the generations. But the current cycle of violence dates to a single event in 1968.

On October 5 of that year, about 400 Catholic civil rights marchers were attacked by police as they tried to cross a bridge into the center of Londonderry.

Television film of the melee, taken by a cameraman from Ireland's RTE network, was distributed to many countries.

Gerry Fitt, one of the leaders of the march and one of the first to be clubbed, later said that he said a prayer of thanks as he felt blood flow down his face.

"I knew that at last Northern Ireland as she really was would be seen before the world," said Fitt.

"At a stroke, the television coverage... destabilized Northern Ireland, and the sectarian dragon was fully reawakened," Jonathan Bardon wrote in *Ulster*, a history of the province.

That incident energized the Catholic civil rights movement — the next month nearly 20,000 joined in a demonstration in Londonderry. But it also aroused a backlash from the Protestant majority.

Violence exploded on August 12, 1969, in Londonderry, during the annual march by the Apprentice Boys, a Protestant fraternal organization that celebrates the victory of Protestant forces over the Catholic King James II in 1690.

Clashes between marchers and Catholic demonstrators degenerated into the so-called Battle of the Bogside, as Catholics from that district fought street battles with police.

Riots broke out in Catholic areas around Northern Ireland. In Belfast, gunfire erupted as police confronted Catholic youths, while Protestants gathered

behind police lines. Someone fired a shot, gunfire erupted and Protestant mobs surged into Catholic neighborhoods, destroying more than 100 houses with gas bombs and damaging many more.

The next day, the British government put troops on the streets, where at first they got an enthusiastic welcome from Catholics. The IRA was moribund, and some graffiti writers painted "I Ran Away" on walls to reproach the organization for not defending Catholics.

Hard-liners in the old IRA broke away to form a new "provisional" wing that began organizing in Belfast, and launched a bombing campaign in Belfast in the summer of 1970.

The troubles, of course, did not stem from a single incident. The Catholic marchers were protesting discrimination in jobs, housing and voting. The police reaction reflected a Protestant ethic of "no surrender," and the old fear of domination by the Catholic majority in Ireland.

Outsiders, including British officials, often find Northern Ireland's politics incomprehensible.

"For God's sake bring me a large Scotch. What a bloody awful country," British Home Secretary Reginald Maudling said after his first visit in 1970.

People in Northern Ireland often point far back in history for the roots of their conflict, sometimes all the way to the Norman invasion in the 12th century. But it was the "plantation of Ulster" by Scottish and English farmers in the 17th century that began the division which now characterizes N. Ireland.

The Government of Ireland Act of 1920, which granted a degree of independence to Ireland, provided for a separate Parliament for Northern Ireland.

The border, which embraced only six of the historic nine counties of Ulster, was drawn to ensure a Protestant majority.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN fears more Rwandan massacres

GOMA, Zaire (AP) — The bodies of Hutu refugees from Rwanda have been found tied up, shot and slashed in the river that divides Rwanda and Tanzania. UN officials fear this signals a new wave of ethnic massacres in a country that already endured a half million deaths last spring.

"Obviously these executions over a period of time have a pattern, and there seems to be some kind of cleansing going on there," UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Ray Wilkinson said yesterday.

China and Iran agree on trade

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — China has agreed to build several cement factories in Iran and to sell four ships to the Iranians. Iran's vice president said yesterday.

Tehran television quoted Hassan Habibi as saying that in return, Iran would help build an oil refinery in China with a daily capacity of 100,000 barrels per day.

Habibi, who was speaking to reporters on his return from a three-day visit to China, said Beijing also had agreed to buy 20,000 barrels a day of Iranian crude oil. Iran also would supply China with 1,000 buses and minibuses, the broadcast, monitored in Cyprus, quoted him as saying.

German crematorium heirs seek assets

BERLIN (Reuters) — The heirs of a German company which built crematoriums at Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps where millions of bodies were burnt will not get back their factory site, a regional government official said yesterday.

However, claims by the heirs of J.A. Topf and Soehne for restitution of private assets are still being considered, the spokesman for the Office for Outstanding Property Questions in eastern Germany's Thuringia state told Reuters.

The bid by the Topf heirs provoked a furious reaction from the World Jewish Congress, which said it was reprehensible and the German government had a moral obligation to reject it. The Thuringia Office spokesman said the heirs' bid to reclaim the factory site in the industrial city of Erfurt was dismissed in 1992.

The factory had been seized by the Soviet military authorities in 1948. Under German law, land confiscated between 1945 and 1949 by communist authorities in the former Soviet Occupation Zone, which later became East Germany, cannot be returned. This does not apply to private assets such as money, jewelry or private homes for which restitution can be sought.

NY bomb plot trial delayed until December

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A federal judge yesterday delayed until December 5 the trial of fiery Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and 12 others charged with plotting to bomb the United Nations and other New York landmarks.

Postwar chapter closes as Russian troops pull out of eastern Germany, Baltics

BERLIN (AP) — Russia yesterday officially ended a half-century of military presence in former East Germany and the Baltics, the last European bastions for former Red Army forces of the Cold War era.

Gen. Matvei Burlakov, commander of the West Group, a force that once numbered more than half a million, surrendered his command to Russian President Boris Yeltsin on a cobblestone square in front of the opulent Schauspielhaus theater.

Standing before Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Burlakov cocked his arm in salute and announced that the West Group had completed its final mission.

In speeches, Yeltsin praised the Red Army forces that pushed German invaders out of the Soviet Union and all the way back to Berlin during World War II.

It was the Russians, not the Western Allies, who captured

Berlin, and the more than 20,000 Soviet soldiers who fell in the battle for Berlin deserve to be thanked, Yeltsin said.

The remnants of a Soviet occupation force that moved into the Baltics in 1940 also pulled out yesterday from Latvia and Estonia, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

Russia completed its withdrawal from Lithuania last year.

Yeltsin's presence drew attention away from troops leaving the Baltics and onto those troops leaving eastern Germany.

The troops have been leaving over the past four years under a treaty that enabled East Germany and West Germany to reunite in 1990, and now number fewer than 3,000.

Although the West Group was formally dissolved yesterday, some of its soldiers will remain for a few weeks to oversee closing down the bases.

Cuban refugee exodus resumes in earnest

MIAMI (AP) — Nearly 400 Cuban rafters were rescued by the US Coast Guard in just a few hours yesterday, as the exodus toward Florida shifted from a steady trickle to a heavy stream.

The flow of Cubans fleeing their communist-ruled island had slowed dramatically over the weekend because of bad weather and repeated warnings they would be held indefinitely in a camp at the US Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

But the numbers surged to 1,234 on Tuesday — up from 84 on Sunday. Officials were concerned about a repeat of last week when the flow of refugees increased to

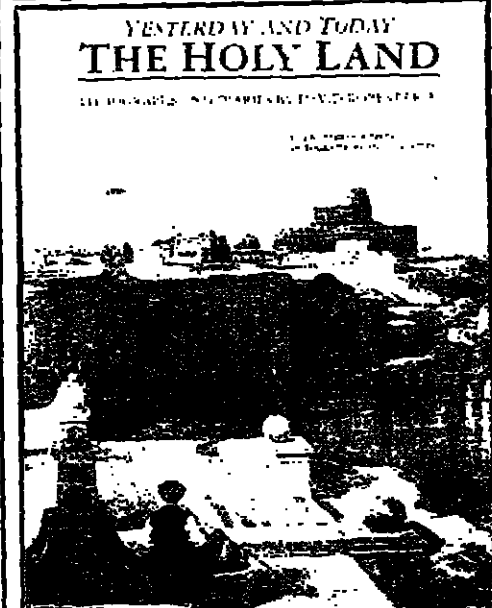
as many as 3,000 a day.

As of 10 a.m. local time yesterday, another 398 had been rescued, said Petty Officer Alex Worden.

"The numbers indicate it's picked up," Worden said. "But nobody can tell if this is just a surge, or if it's going to be like it was last week."

Cubans began fleeing their homeland in large numbers August 5 after Cuban President Fidel Castro stopped trying to block them. By last week, the flow of refugees had grown into the largest exodus since the 1980 Mariel boatlift brought 125,000 Cubans to Florida's shores in five months.

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MOTORING
JOEL GORDIN

ON the evening of August 15, a ship carrying new Fiat and Renaults from Italy and France lay anchored at sea off Ashdod. There was room at the docks; but the captain was under orders not to enter Israel until the clock struck midnight.

The reason: the New Year for automobiles in Israel is August 15. Only cars entering the country after this date (if they were manufactured after July 1) can be classified as 1995 models.

The official reason the Transport Ministry gives for the date is that most of the world's major manufacturers take a break in August, after which they immediately start working on the next year's models. The theory is open to argument and many feel that the "automobile year" is confusing and should coincide with the calendar year.

At this time of the year, many dealers hurry to sell their accumulated stocks of previous-year models at reduced prices. Consumers should know that by buying an "older" model they immediately lose up to 20 percent of the resale value (instead of 10%) the moment they take their new car on the road.

For those who prefer to wait, here are some of the new models expected to reach Israel in the "new year." The list is not complete and it runs in approximate order of price.

• The Maruti will be the first Indian-made automobile to run on local roads. The Maruti factory is jointly owned by Japan's Suzuki and the Indian government. The local dealers will be Automotive Equipment Ltd., the Suzuki/Chrysler agents.

The 800 cc, 33 h.p. Maruti is similar to the tiny Suzuki Alto, of which more than 2,000 units were sold during the late 1980s. The Maruti has four forward, manually operated gears, and there is an option for an air conditioner. The price is expected to be around NIS 35,000, slightly less than the Czech-built Skoda, but more than the Russian Lada.



The Fiat Punto, a more luxurious, more modern version of the European-made Uno, is among the new models that is now being sold here.

• The Fiat Punto is now being sold here. It is a more luxurious, more modern version of the Uno and has achieved enormous success in Europe. The Uno will continue to be manufactured and sold in Israel alongside its "older brother." A number of models of the Punto will be offered in different versions and

standards of finish. They can be roughly divided into the following categories: The "55" (1,100 cc, 55 h.p.) will start from NIS 43,990; the "75" (1,200 cc, 75 h.p.) from NIS 46,790; the "90" (1,600 cc, 90 h.p.) from NIS 55,990; the GT Turbo (1,400 cc, 136 h.p.) from NIS 74,990; and the Cabriolet 90 from

NIS 95,990. Fiat has placed an emphasis on safety. Side-impact bars and automatic seat belt tensioners will be standard on all models, while air bags and ABS braking will be an option.

• The Hyundai Accent is making its debut here this week. The Korean giant has already made inroads into the local

market with the luxury-family Lantra and the executive-class Sonata. The 1.3 liter (82 h.p.) and 1.5 liter (91 h.p.) versions of the Accent will give Hyundai a foot in the door of the popular market. The cost of the small model will start at NIS 54,000, and the large model at NIS 57,000.

• More advanced models from Daewoo are already being sold — the 2,000cc, 115 horsepower Prince (NIS 84,000) and the more luxurious Super Saloon (NIS 102,000).

• Another Korean car expected here by the end of the year is the 1.6 liter (81 h.p.) Kia Sephia which will compete at the bottom end of the family car market, probably at an attractive price.

• The Ford Escort Cabriolet and the Escort RS2000 have already hit the roads.

They are part of the plans of the local dealer, Israel Automobile Company Ltd., to win back the 10 percent market share it held a decade ago.

These sporting models are not the rivals of Subaru and Mitsubishi, but appeal to lovers of high-class performance. The Cabriolet costs NIS 118,870, the RS2000 NIS 94,367.

• Rover is following up the sales success of the 400 and 800 series with the 600 series in two engine sizes and two standards of finish. Prices will start at NIS 110,000.

• The Renault Laguna, a high-priced combination of power and beauty, is already in the showrooms. The 1,800 cc, manual shift model costs NIS 84,000; the 2,000 cc automatic goes for NIS 107,000.

• Even higher on the price list, BMW offers the 316 compact — a three-door version of the 3 series, for NIS 110,000. Those with unlimited funds can shell out NIS 500,000 for the 840 model.

Most dealers will continue to supply the growing sports/four-wheel drive market. Toyota's Four-Runner is already here, while the Chrysler Cherokee and new versions of the Land Rover Defender are scheduled. Sales of vans will also be pushed — for example, Chrysler's Ram will be available.

However, it is expected that van and 4-wd sales will be hit hard by the new regulations allowing all vehicles — even passenger cars — to be recognized as expenses for tax purposes.

At last, the sales of station wagons and hatchbacks should start to pick up after January 1, when the new rules come into force.

Reasonably priced perfumes, cosmetics make good holiday gifts

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

REDUCED taxes on perfumes and other cosmetic products, combined with tremendous holiday season discounts ranging from 15 to 30 percent, make shopping for these items a real treat.

With prestigious brands suddenly much more affordable, we can indulge ourselves or our loved ones with small luxuries which are generally not in range of our limited budgets.

The problem is that there are so many fantastic choices that one doesn't know where to start. And then there is the temptation of buying two, three or more of our favorite products for fear that these relatively low prices will never again be repeated. Thus we often spend a lot more than we actually intended.

And there's no escaping. The hard-to-resist discount displays are at Shekema, Hamashbir, SuperPharm, CenterPharm and supermarkets around the country.

A few examples to prove the point: 200 ml of Oscar de la Renta's Volupte perfumed body cream is down to NIS 214.99 from NIS 268.99.

A 60-ml bottle of Estee Lauder's White Linen Eau de Parfum together with a 125-ml tube of White Linen perfumed body cream which usually sell for the combined price of NIS 400 are now available for NIS 219.

Christian Dior's Dune Esprit de Parfum is down from NIS 293.93 for 100 ml of Eau de Toilette to NIS 220.49. The same-volume spray container has been reduced from NIS 318.99 to NIS 239.19.

New to Israel is Carolina Herrera (CH). Like so many top-ranked fashion celebrities, the Venezuelan-born, award-winning American designer has added a signature perfume to her aura.

The dominant essence is jasmine, which together with tuberose have been her personal favor-



For women, Carolina Herrera (CH) products offer an essence of jasmine and tuberose.

ites since childhood. These form the base of a complete range of fragrance products.

Herrera's Eau de Parfum at NIS 439.99 for 7.50 ml is without doubt expensive. But the Eau de Toilette at NIS 189.99, NIS 139.99 and NIS 99.00 for 100 ml, 50 ml and 30 ml vaporizers fits comfortably into the new price ranges.

The seductive and heady aroma of jasmine is also the most pervasive of the essences incorporated in Charlie Red by Revlon.

Combined with a floral bouquet, strawberries, citrus and vanilla, Charlie Red is lighter, cheekier and half the price of CH. Eau de Toilette Spray costs NIS 94 for 100 ml; NIS 62 for 50 ml and NIS 44 for 30 ml. Body lotion sells at NIS 31 for 200 ml;

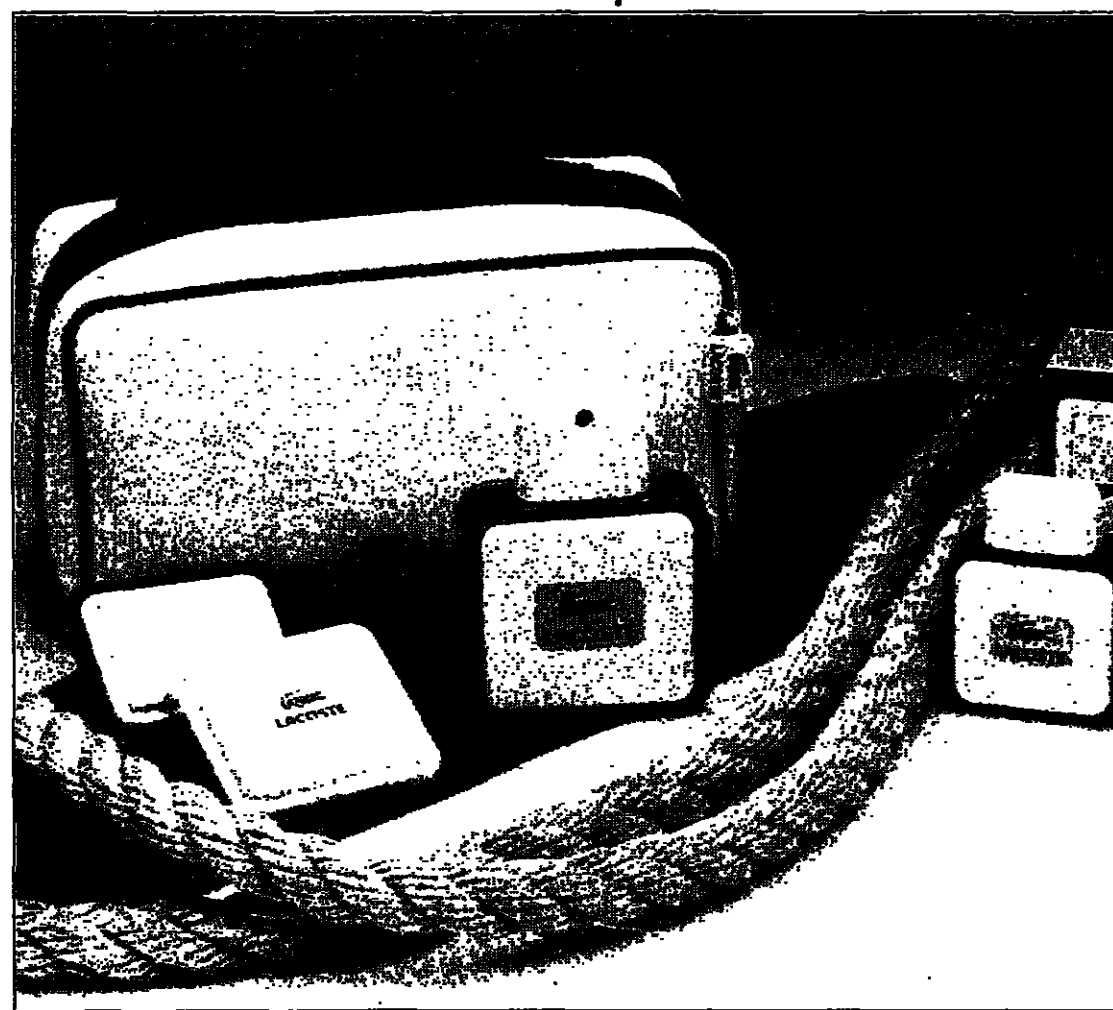
and deodorant NIS 29 for 200 ml. G. Gigli, the exotic fragrance by Italian fashion designer Romeo Gigli, was inspired by A Thousand and One Nights and is reminiscent of eastern spices and fruit blossoms.

A 33% discount has brought the price down from NIS 157 to NIS 105 for 50 ml of Eau de Toilette, whereas 100 ml of Eau de Toilette now costs NIS 139 instead of NIS 209. There is also purse-size spill-proof bottle which comes packed like a roll of film.

Although many perfumes have similar ingredients, they are not necessarily in the same quantity nor at the same note in the formula, which is why Dolce & Gabbana, from the well-known Italian fashion house of the same name, is distinctively different.

Extracted from a blend of fresh, flowery, citrus and woody scents, with sandalwood, vanilla, and musk at the base; orange blossom, jasmine, lily of the valley, marigold, roses, red carnations and coriander at the heart and ivy, sweet basil and mandarin at the top, Dolce and Gabbana is sensual, lingering, yet light. The Eau de Parfum retails for NIS 164 for 50 ml. Eau de toilette is priced at NIS 149 for 50 ml and NIS 209 for 100 ml.

For those who like slightly sweet perfumes, etou, composed of wild flowers and green leaves, is a pleasant option. The NIS 123.90 etou gift pack comprises a 50 ml bottle of Eau de Parfum, a tube of cream-formula moisturizing shampoo and a tube of vitamin-enriched body lotion which come in



From Lacoste for men, a toilet bag for those who purchase toilet spray and a bar of soap.

an attractive but sturdy white vinyl toiletry bag which is excellent for travel.

Toiletry bags in a variety of shapes, colors and sizes are part of the incentive for buying gift packs. Anyone who purchases NIS 199 worth of Lancaster make-up and/or skin care products at SuperPharm will receive a NIS 350 gift pack of Lancaster's Suractif anti-aging creams and lotions packed in a bright yellow toiletry bag.

Stores which stock Jade cosmetics will supply a red plastic toiletry bag with rounded corners to customers who spend at least NIS 95

on four specific Jade products which include hand-cream, liquid body cleanser, body moisturizing emulsion and deodorant spray.

The toiletry bags have also caught on in men's lines, and one of the more multi-purpose versions is put out by Skinditioner's Inc. of U.S.A. which packs its sensitive non-foaming shaving gel, its strong, tangy, detergent-free exfoliant after shave and its alcohol free Tector antiperspirant deodorant in a forest green and charcoal grey washable pouch which comes in handy afterwards for packing socks, underwear or even lunch.

The price is NIS 106.40. Purchasers should be aware that the gel is not in any of the regular sizes but in sample packs.

A more conventional-style bag is offered by Lacoste to anyone spending NIS 140 on a 100-ml bottle of Lacoste toilet spray and a 100-gram bar of soap. The regular price for these two items is NIS 165.

For those on a tighter budget who are prepared to sacrifice the toilet bag, NIS 69.30 will get you a deodorant stick and a 50-ml bottle of after-shave for NIS 69.30 instead of NIS 99.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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ZAMER CHORALE — auditioning new members, all voices, for coming season. Tami, 02-734028, NIS.
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423784, Zev.
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FREE KITTENS — to good homes, all quite delightful: little gray female, fluffy gray tabby male, black beige ginger, tiger. 02-283521, NIS.
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Egypt's nuclear demand

FIFTEEN years ago Egypt's leaders said there could be no real peace until Israel returned every square inch of the Sinai. Then they said that peace could not be contemplated unless Tabu was relinquished. Total withdrawal from all "occupied territories," recognition of the PLO and talks with Yasser Arafat came next. More recent requirements have included the establishment of a Palestinian state and the return of Israel to its "natural" size (presumably, but not certainly, the 1949 armistice lines, not the 1947 partition plan).

Now the newest Egyptian demand, persistently raised in international conferences, has been revealed as the central purpose of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa's visit. Unless Israel signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, there can be no comprehensive peace in the region, he said yesterday.

Encouragingly, both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres flatly rejected this Egyptian demand. Rabin said that Moussa may be able to assure Israel of his own country's peaceful intentions. But he cannot speak for countries like Iran, Iraq, Libya, or even Syria, all of which already have immense chemical and biological warfare capabilities. (Iran and Iraq are almost certain also to have nuclear weapons in the near future.)

Peres, too, was unequivocal. Stressing that the danger is not in the technology but the policy behind it, he said there is no sense in treating the issue of weapons as long as there is a political threat. "For all its vast arsenal, the United States threatens no one. Dangerous countries are those which, like Iran, have murderous intentions."

It would be nice to believe that Rabin and Peres will adhere to these positions, for if Israel indeed has the nuclear capacity it is alleged to have, it would be suicidal to relinquish it. Only time will tell if this current red line is any firmer than all its predecessors. But the Egyptian demand betrays not just a lack of sensitivity to Israel's security concerns. It actually confirms the worst fears of those who view the current peace process as dangerous.

The difference between those who support the government's policies and those who oppose them can be easily summarized. The former believe there has been a fundamental change in Arab

attitudes, which makes peace in exchange for Israeli withdrawal possible. The model for such an exchange is Egypt, and it has been the Egyptian view of the chances for peace that has greatly influenced Israel's change of policy. Opponents of the current agreements with the PLO believe that the Arabs' purpose is to make Israel as vulnerable as possible for the purpose of destroying it at an opportune moment.

Had Egypt really believed that peace between a shrunken Israel and the Arab world is viable, it should have encouraged Israel to have all the nuclear weapons it can produce. The Egyptians know all too well that there is no danger that Israel would introduce the use of nuclear weapons to the region. Indeed, what Peres said about the US can be said about Israel with even greater conviction. Such weapons are for Israel nothing more than an insurance against a turn in the Arab position, particularly if Arab countries acquire nuclear weapons. Even the country's leading doves believe in the need for such insurance.

That is why the Egyptian demand that Israel strip itself of whatever potential capabilities it may have cannot but raise suspicions about its purpose. What makes it even more puzzling is that Egypt is well aware that Iraq, a signatory to the non-proliferation pact, has invested tremendous resources in developing nuclear weapons. In fact, had it not been for Israel's attack on the Osirak reactor, Baghdad would have had them long ago, and the Gulf War, in which Egypt participated, would have assumed a completely different dimension. Only the hopelessly naive can believe that dictators like Saddam Hussein, Hafez Assad, Muammar Gaddafi, or Hashemi Rafsanjani will honor their signature any more than Yasser Arafat honors his.

Rabin has often mentioned that Egypt's own huge military effort is not quite comprehensible in the framework of the peace process. Egypt's arsenal of missiles and chemical weapons, let alone conventional weapons, are far beyond anything reason would dictate. They make its obsession with disarming Israel of its security insurance particularly alarming.

Clearly, Moussa's demand should not only elicit a flat and decisive Israeli rejection. It should turn on a warning light in the minds of all Israelis about Egypt's true intentions.



The toothless dictator

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

DON'T read Fidel Castro's lips. Listen to the message he's sending President Clinton. "is what the Cuban dictator's most trusted aides are saying out loud in Havana."

To the growing number of Spanish, French, Canadian, Venezuelan, Mexican and Israeli businessmen swarming into this Caribbean island — so long a thorn in America's side — the official word is: "Castro is a realist. His socialist dreams are dead."

Though he's ready for major changes, he doesn't want Cuba to collapse the way the Soviet Union did when it switched abruptly from Marxism to an open market economy.

Castro is allowing the country's farmers to operate freely as of today. To ensure that they will be able to sell wherever they want, he has appointed his brother Raoul, the defense minister, to ensure that Socialist red tape is swept aside. This is an important step, as agriculture is the backbone of the Cuban economy.

Israeli entrepreneurs too have realized that a major shift of policy is in the offing in Havana. A frequent visitor to the island, a man who has high-ranking contacts there, told us: "Macho voices in the US administration are demanding that the embargo on Cuba be tightened into full-scale blockade to bring Castro to his knees."

"As every American president for 35 years has discovered, being tough with Castro never works. It will fail today too, despite the harsh conditions in Havana which are driving people to risk their lives by sailing for America. Outside the capital, however, nobody in the countryside is starving. There are no farmers on the beaches building rafts and boats."

"To this day Castro is revered by most Cubans, especially in the rural areas. They trust and admire him. They aren't going to try and overthrow him."

"Castro is now ready to take a totally different direction. But he has his pride, and he isn't going to say it publicly."

"He wants to be in command so as to prevent chaos and disorder."

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

He is certain that Cubans will accept his direction of a new ideological and political program."

Say intelligence sources: "This is the same message being heard by CIA analysts in Washington."

SOME of the 1,200 Jews still living in Cuba have this message for President Clinton: "Americans should stop talking about block-

America has nothing to fear from Castro. It should let him come around — his way

ades or tougher sanctions. This will only result in the entire island rallying around Castro. The truth is that if there were genuine free elections today, Castro would win hands down."

"Castro's advisers are realistic. To the growing numbers of dealers arriving in Havana, they say: 'Let's do business together. We're ready for it. Encourage tourists from the US in particular to visit freely and spend their money here.'"

"Castro insists that his islanders must be protected from being brutally exploited by greedy foreigners, as they were under Batista before he seized power. He wants the dignity and culture of the Cuban people to be respected."

We were told by a senior diplomat: "Once the floodgates of the free-enterprise, market system are introduced, socialist concepts will be swept away by the natural forces of trade and commerce. Everyone will benefit, investors and Cubans alike."

"In essence," said the diplomat, "Castro cannot harm the US. He's a toothless dictator, but still retains his charisma. Many of his soldiers are now organized into

Israeli-style Nahal units, working on farms and in industry. His security services, however, are efficient and loyal to him."

"Castro knows that the era of Khrushchev, Russian missiles and foreign adventures are history. He wants to play ball with America, but insists that Washington stop treating him like a devil. Let him save face, and allow him to introduce reforms his way. Once the island is opened up and investment capital revives the economy, it will be only a question of time before he is ousted in genuine elections."

"This is the only realistic option facing President Clinton today. Castro doesn't care how many of the citizens of Havana go sailing off into the blue. On the contrary, they are a useful bargaining chip in dealing with Clinton. But to show that he is a humanitarian, Castro is now forbidding children and babies to set off on the rafts leaving Havana."

"The pressure is on Clinton today to do something about Castro. The embargo policy is counterproductive. Nobody realized this more than former president Nixon, who declared earlier this year that the best way of toppling Castro was to open the doors and allow the outside world to come into contact with Cubans on every level."

"This is also the belief of businessmen, particularly from Spain, who are signing deals with the Havana authorities right now."

An influential member of the Cuban Jewish community complained: "We have a situation that the US is trying to force Israel to give the entire Golan to its neighbor, the Syrian dictator Assad, in the interest of peace. But when it comes to their own dictator Castro on their doorstep, nobody in Washington is suggesting surrendering everything to Havana."

"On the contrary, Clinton is condemned for being 'weak' unless he imposes embargoes, blockades, and generally acts tough. And Castro, unlike Assad, has no territorial claims on America!"

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.*

Race card

DIANA BEARD-WILLIAMS

IT'S time for a reality check. It's time for African-Americans to put down our score cards, stop pointing fingers and start to conduct a sobering analysis of the racial tactics some African-American leaders use to protect themselves and their powerful positions. Unfortunately, these are actions that define them as neither intellectually courageous nor politically astute.

I'm talking about playing the race card. Whenever an African-American leader is accused of illegal or inappropriate behavior by "the system," the race card is the smoke screen of choice.

In response, we react just as we've been programmed to do. Instead of excoriating black leaders for falling in love with their power, image and shameless sense of invincibility, African-Americans buy into the specially orchestrated drama that is calculated to stir up hatred, division and fear. We rarely pause in our thirst for justice to give ourselves time to engage in a careful reflection of the issues.

Yes, America is a land where racism is alive and well, but could it be that we're defending a devil as a reflex action?

The time has come to admit that

It's the smoke screen African-American leaders hide behind. And their constituencies are pawns in the game

African American leaders must be put to the same credibility test that we say we want all leaders measured by. Disagreeing with, condemning or not supporting an African American leader is not an indictment of our "blackness" or sense of community. We should be relentless in our drive to protect black leaders if they are right; we should be unstoppable if they have a valuable message to disseminate.

We must not, however, be pawns in the race-card game when our leaders have betrayed our trust. When money and power — not "the system" — is their shortcoming. Instead of being so accommodating, we need to admit when we have been emotionally raped by those who misused our trust. If they allowed ego and greed to amputate their social, economic and political lifelines, they alone should pay the price.

SOME AFRICAN-AMERICANS cried foul when it was publicly disclosed that Marion Barry, the former mayor of Washington, had a penchant for illegal drugs and illicit sex. They ignored the fact that Barry had betrayed a covenant made with his constituents. Instead, they chose to focus on "the system" — as if racism is a rational explanation for cocaine-smoking and other illegalities.

When Clarence Thomas was accused by Anita Hill of sexual harassment, he immediately played the race card. Though he had been adopted by the "good old boys," he made his Caucasian buddies squirm by dubbing them eager participants in a "high-tech lynching." The race card, with all its shock value, won him a seat on the Supreme Court.

Now, we have Congressman Walter R. Tucker III, who was indicted for allegedly soliciting bribes and then failing to pay taxes on them. He quickly played the race card and engaged in venomous rhetoric against "the system." When Congressman Mel Reynolds was indicted for statutory rape and other charges involving an alleged affair with a 16-year-old campaign worker, he too played the race card. And Benjamin Chavis, fired recently as executive director of the NAACP, immediately charged that there was a right-wing-Jewish conspiracy against him — as if this, and not alleged incompetence and clashing ideologies, were his downfall.

If our leaders create their own nightmares, then they belittle our character by implicating us in a race issue that does not exist.

African-American leaders must be fearless, not senseless. And while it is true that African-Americans have been at the bottom of the barrel of opportunity for too long, we'll arrive where we need to be because of an economic base, political clout, wide support — and because we have the good sense to weed out the ineffective among us and nurture both the talented and the gifted. But we must cry wolf only when the wolf is at the door.

The writer is executive director of the Coalition for the Empowerment of Children and Families and a management consultant for the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Education. (Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LIFEBOAT MENTALITY

Sir, — Ben Dansker ("Settlers can cut their losses," August 16) argues that the "old" Zionist dream of redeeming the Jewish people and the Land of Israel is dead. The "new" dream is, "we'll settle for whatever we can get." This "lifboat thinking" focuses on who will be sacrificed next — except of course Dansker, who excludes himself.

He notes that, in the last 30 years, only a "small portion" of Jews have moved to "the territories." The fact is that, if we include Jews living in all areas conquered in 1967, including new neighborhoods of Jerusalem, the figure is more than half a million — more than 10 percent of the entire Israeli population.

More Jews would have moved to the territories if the roads had been secured and housing costs had been kept down. Unfortunately, in places like Efrat, the local administration refused to make enough lots available to meet the demand. The purpose was to keep prices artificially high in order to protect or increase the investment value of those who had already built.

Despite risks and attempts by the Jewish Agency to discourage and prevent Jewish families from moving to Yeshva, more people moved there than to any area inside the "green line." They are not "messianists," but ordinary people who believe that

Jews have the right to live anywhere in the Land of Israel. That is not only a biblical injunction, but a legal right and a historical imperative.

Dansker argues that in order to save his property and a few other tiny areas, we should abandon "non-important" settlements. But what makes one settlement more important than another? What makes a settlement in Yeshva less important than a town or moshav in Galilee? Should we give up Jerusalem to save Tel Aviv?

The argument that we should not and cannot rule over Arabs, although appealing, is unrealistic. We inherited a difficult situation in 1948, and again in 1967, and we have made the best of it. Tearing apart the country won't solve that problem and, given the threat of a PLO/Hamas state, we dare not gamble with our future. In time, we will solve that problem, not by surrendering, but by asserting our authenticity.

If, as Dansker admits, the Arabs would not hesitate to "destroy us in a minute... if they had the means," then why give them the means? What reason is there to believe that any concessions will achieve a lasting peace? The PLO has never relinquished its claim to all of "Palestine" — including Mr. Dansker's home.

Jerusalem. MOSHE DANN

THE TRUTH ABOUT HEBRON

Sir, — In his letter of August 22, "Truth in advertising," Tzvi Goldberg says that calling Hebron "Israel's second holiest city" is a "serious error" or "a deliberate misrepresentation of fact."

In fact, it is Mr. Goldberg who is misrepresenting the truth. Hebron was always considered one of Israel's four holy cities, along with Jerusalem, Tiberias and Safed. Chronologically, Hebron's holiness precedes that of Jerusalem, since the Patriarchs settled there more than 4,000 years ago, while Jerusalem became holy only when the First Temple was built there nearly 3,000 years ago.

Mr. Goldberg's view represents a dangerous trend which could lead to an internal conflict among the Jews,

rather than promote the cause of peace. RAZ JOSEPH

Beersheba. Sir, — I think Tzvi Goldberg should go back to school and learn a little history. Surely, everyone who has learnt the history of Israel knows that Jews have always lived in Hebron: it has always been known as "the City of the Patriarchs."

The Jews left Hebron only after the 1929 massacres. Just because Arab kamukar arrived in Hebron at the end of the 19th century, multiplied rapidly and took over Hebron, does that make it an Arab city?

Petah Tikva. JUDY FORD

GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS

Sir, — The imposition of a 10 percent tax on profits on the stock exchange contrary to Mr. Rabin's announcement that a tax would not be imposed in the lifetime of the present government, vindicates the theory known as "The Barren Theory of the Interpretation of Governmental Statements." The theory is very simple and can be guaranteed to be accurate in the case of 98 percent of statements by the prime minister and members of the government and can be of great help to journalists, the PLO, foreign diplomats and businessmen, among others, in forecasting government actions and policies.

The theory says:

- 1) If the prime minister or a member of the government says "yes," it means "no" and if they say "no" it means "yes."

- 2) Any outrageous statement made by Dr. Yossi Beilin, Mrs. Shulamit Aloni or any other member of the government is made with the full knowledge of the prime minister and is a trial balloon to test the reaction of the Israeli public and/or world Jewry.

The theory has been proved correct and confirmed by the prime minister's statement of August 16, that "The public should not expect them [the prime minister or the finance minister] to tell the whole truth..." This further confirms the theory, as this statement, which is true, is included in the 2 percent of cases when the prime minister is telling the truth!

YEKUTIEL BARRETTI

Jerusalem.

RAPE IN ISRAEL

Sir, — Why is it that rape in Israel is treated as a minor offense? A 14-year-old girl is gang-raped. The rapists receive one and a half years in jail. They will be out in 12 months. The girl will suffer for the rest of her life.

In most countries, rapists receive 10 to 20 years. Some countries even have the death penalty for rape. Is it that Israeli women are second-class citizens?

Kibbutz Gaed. A. KRAMER

POSTSCRIPTS

THE ELDERS of the sport of sumo used to look the other way when aspiring Japanese wrestlers had lumps of silicone injected into their scalps to gain the few centimeters to meet the height requirement.

That was before the press got hold of the sumo wrestler who raised his scalp 15 cm (six inches) that way.

Embarrassed by sneering media accounts of Koji Harada, whose implant formed an eerie bulge atop his cranium, the Japan Sumo Association decided that enough was enough.

Harada, 16, will be the last wrestler allowed to use the implants as a way to get ahead.

Sumo expert Mark Schilling suggested that the ban was imposed because "the association was afraid that other people would get other kinds of weird ideas for ways to make themselves taller."

Other methods have in fact been tried.

Some aspirants have been known to whack their heads with clubs, raising natural bumps, or to stretch themselves with machines to reach the 172-cm requirement.



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My partner still sleeps at his ex-wife's house

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
My partner, a Holocaust survivor, has been divorced for 12 years. But he is still constantly helping his ex-wife and sons (now in their twenties) through various crises.

He's 57, with a heart condition, and I feel his duty now should be to himself, me and our baby. But he doesn't know how to set limits. When I raise the subject, he gets cross.

His ex-wife was the one who wanted the divorce, yet she maintains an "unmarried" married life with him. She got fired from her job, and he's the one who's fighting the firm for better compensation.

I never feel I have full wifely status, as he doesn't believe in marriage. He even spends nights at her house (without sex).

I sometimes think I could live without all this, but he's terrific, and I adore him.

Wife or Wimp?
Jerusalem

Dear W or W,

It's funny that your partner doesn't believe in marriage—considering his penchant for marital responsibility.

And no wonder you doubt your "wifely" status, considering the liberties you allow your "partner" to take. It's one thing for him to help his sons, but he has no business being entangled with his ex-wife to the point where he spends the night with her—sex or no.

Afraid to be thought of as intolerant, or perhaps because your partner is a survivor, you put up with a situation you resent. If you want him to behave like a husband, you must demand it. (He apparently responds well to having demands made on him.) You must give him an ultimatum. If he would rather let you suffer than let his ex fend for herself, you're better off without him.

Dear Ruthie,

I have been divorced for many years. My ex-husband lives partly in the US and partly here. He lives alone, and so do I. When he comes to Israel, he contacts me, and I feel that he'd like to be with me again. I have my own apartment, and after all these years have gotten used to living alone. I have never known loneliness until now. My sister's family (I have no children)

has stopped caring for me as they did before. My ex is a difficult man to live with, addicted to cards and generally antisocial. What should I do?

Undecided Divorcee
Tel Aviv

Dear Undecided,

You seem to be asking whether it is preferable to live with a difficult, anti-social card-playing addict, or to live alone and be lonely. Only you can answer that, especially since you have experienced both options.

Keep in mind, however, that it is possible to live with someone and still be lonely. And that your ex isn't the only man left in the world.

Dear Ruthie,

I jump out of my skin at every sudden noise or unexpected appearance. It's been like that since World War II. What was once a lifesaving reflex action—"hitting the ground" during enemy fire—is now an embarrassment.

I generally manage to keep myself under tight control in public. At home, however, where I'm completely relaxed, my wife will suddenly appear at my elbow, or open a door while I'm lying down or shaving, and my heart leaps out of my chest.

I've learned to live with my jumpiness, and it annoys my wife more than it does me. I've told her time and again to give me some sort of warning. She agrees, but forgets.

I don't want to be on constant alert at home, and my wife is much too nice to have to go around with a cow bell round her neck. Any suggestions?

Shell-Shock Shy
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Shell-Shock Shy,

A cow bell could make even the calmest person jumpy. A simple clearing of the throat would be just as efficient, and is certainly not too much to ask. If you have managed basically to overcome such a difficult problem, your wife can be a little more accommodating.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

One wild working woman

BOOKS

HENRY ALFORD

NINE LIVES: From Stripper to Schoolteacher: My Year-Long Odyssey in the Workplace by Lynn Snowden. Norton. 287 pp. \$22.

HUTZPA, moxie, spunk: It would be difficult to discuss Lynn Snowden and her highly engaging book on participatory journalism, *Nine Lives*, without invoking these three words.

A freelance magazine writer who got herself hired for nine different jobs in the course of a year—from counseling rape victims in Texas to making chocolate dinosaurs in a factory in Connecticut, from writing copy for a New York City advertising agency to working as a stripper on Bourbon Street in New Orleans—Snowden has an ability to throw herself into harrowing situations with determination and brio.

Snowden's investigation of the American workplace was motivated by her belief that what people do during the day determines who they are at night. Moreover, she contends that we all have preconceptions about the sort of person who works in certain jobs.

Thus, in selecting her nine careers for her book, she was "very interested in selecting professions that have very strong stereotypical images." She writes, "I wanted to examine persistent myths about jobs, the people in them and women in the workplace in general."

Snowden never fails to hold our interest or to provide a clear understanding of the tasks and irritations of each career. The most diverting chapter of the book is her stint as a pyrotechnician for the heavy-metal band Skid Row, whose music she describes as "the aural equivalent of a train wreck."

Hired to help load and detonate explosions during concerts, Snowden tours with the almost all-male Skid Row entourage, sleeping each night on board the band's bus in a compartment she describes as a "coffin." Snowden aptly captures the roadie experience: not knowing or caring what city you're in; buying inexpensive socks and later throwing them out rather than having to wash them; working 12- and 14-hour days under much pressure.

Such a career, it seems, brings out the feistiness in Snowden: When she finds Skid Row's tour accountant reading her notebook one day, she bashes him with her

duffel bag; when a male groupie intimates that he will do almost anything in exchange for one of the band member's guitar picks, Snowden tells him to lick the sludge-coated sole of her sneaker (he does, and lustily). After I had read this second act of brazenness—a reversal of the humiliation that male roadies put female fans through—suddenly the idea of George Plimpton playing for the Lions or of Gloria Steinem working as a Playboy bunny seemed almost quaint.

Equally interesting (if less combative) is Snowden's account of working as a counselor at the Austin Rape Crisis Center in Texas.

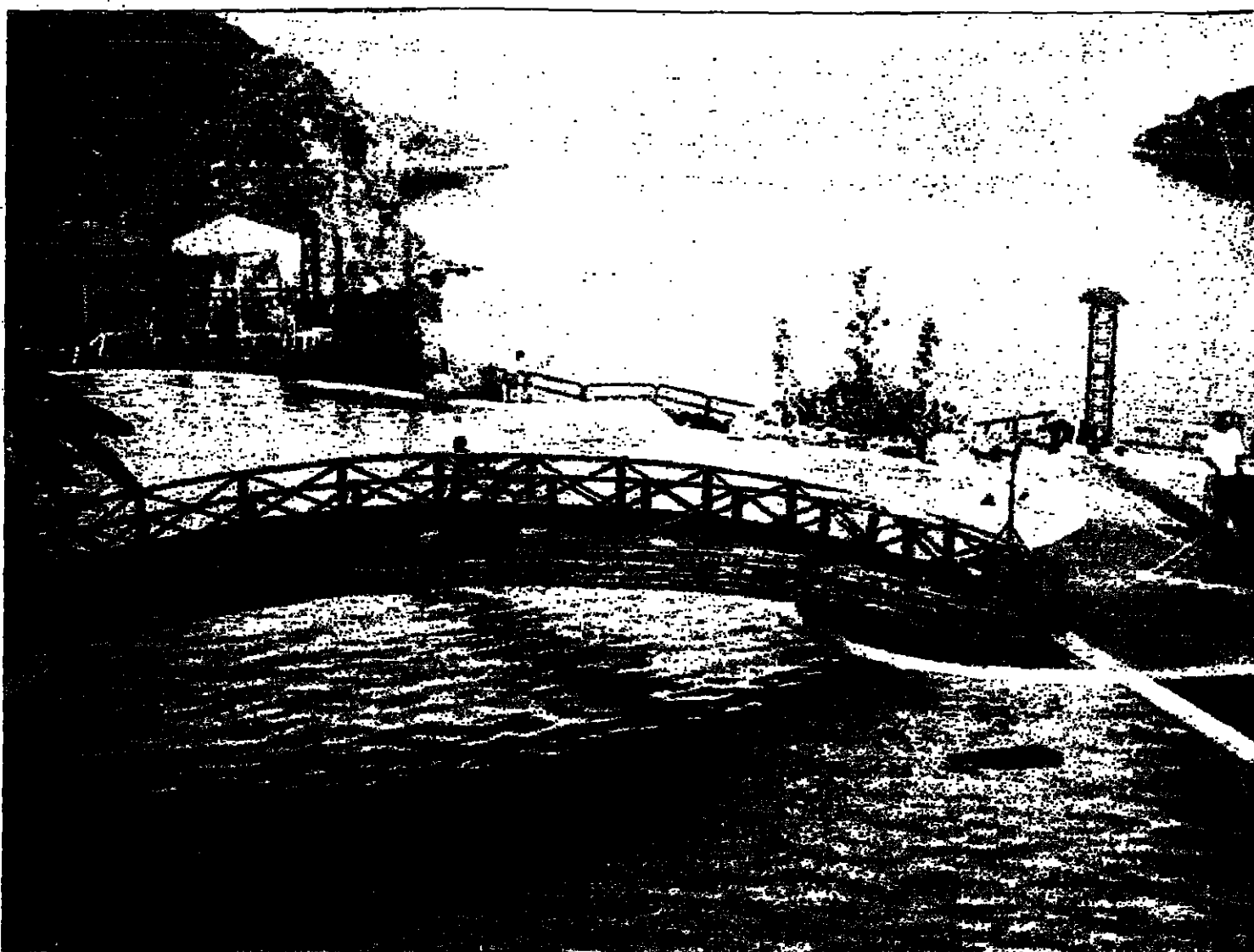
During her training she learns that rape "is concerned much more with status, hostility, control and dominance than with sexual pleasure or sexual satisfaction. It is sexual behavior in the service of nonsexual needs." She goes on to work both on the center's hot line and in person with rape victims.

This chapter of the book best illustrates the author's assertion that who we are at night is affected by what we do during the day. Indeed, Snowden's life is altered as a result of her work at the center: Women she meets in social situations start blurting out to her that they have been raped; a visit to a local drinking establishment results in paranoia; the failure of the doors of an elevator at her hotel to close finds her complaining to the hotel's management therapist-style ("If the buttons don't work, you're removing my choice to shut the door").

The one disappointing chapter in the book is Snowden's turn as a Danien, Connecticut, housewife in charge of three boys and a mother-in-law. The revelation that housekeeping is challenging does not exactly crackle; nor does the reader acquire any interesting job-specific information.

In the book's epilogue Snowden explains how she got each of the nine jobs, limning the irony of how much easier it was to get hired as a high-school teacher and rape-crisis counselor than it was as a cocktail waitress or factory worker.

She also reflects on the changes wrought in her life as a result of writing the book: "I [have] developed," she writes, "what is perhaps the dangerous opinion that I could learn how to do anything." (Newsday)



Robinson Club in Maris, Turkey: Its management believes that it can attract a different kind of Israeli tourist.

No-casino Turkish delight

TRAVEL

HAIM SHAPIRO

TURKEY for Israeli tourists these days usually means rock-bottom prices, casinos, and lots of shopping in hectic bazaars.

Robinson Club at Maris has no casino; it is a good hour's drive from the nearest bazaar; and there are no special deals on the price.

Despite this, its management believes that it can attract Israeli tourists, albeit a slightly different type of Israeli from that which usually chooses Turkey as a vacation spot. I visited the club recently as the guest of Amiel Charter, a branch of an Israeli company which is primarily involved in incoming tourism, but which, as a result of this activity, offers some charter flights for Israelis abroad.

The resort is part of a chain of 27 Club Robinson sites around the world, including five in Turkey. In fact, it is the second largest international chain of vacation villages, after Club Med.

However, calling the facility at Maris a vacation club or village does not adequately describe its scope. It is, in fact, a 200-room luxury hotel offering full board and a wide range of sports and leisure activities.

The hotel itself is located on a precipice on an isthmus of the peninsula stretching out into the sea at the corner of southeastern Turkey, separating the Mediterranean from the Aegean. To say that the location is dramatic would be an understatement. From every part of the hotel one can see the sea, together with a constantly changing view of islands, bays and

rock formations jutting out of the water.

In contrast to much of the southern coast of Turkey, where the hotels stand in rows on the beachfront, Robinson Club stands alone, with no other building nearby. The fact that the entire area was declared a nature reserve after construction on the hotel had already begun ensures that it will stay that way.

The facilities are spectacular. There are tennis courts, sports fields and a workout room, sauna and Turkish steam bath, a jacuzzi and two pools, indoor and outdoor. However, most guests seem to prefer to take the funicular car down to the sea, where they can have their choice of three beaches, including one in a discreet cove which is set aside for nude sunbathing. While at the seaside, the active guests have their choice of water-skiing, windsurfing, or sailing in a catamaran, while those who are a less robust can paddle about in a plastic canoe.

There are several options for organized sports activities throughout the day, but the club staff is not aggressive about enlisting guests to participate.

"If guests want to take part, the activities are there for them, but we don't want to force them," says Thomas Fahn, manager of the resort.

He also notes that the chain has

a policy of hiring professionals in every sport to run the various activities. Although as a rule the sports activities are free, guests do have to pay for lessons, as well as such activities as water-skiing and deep-sea diving.

One drawback, for non-German-speaking visitors, is that announcements and explanatory brochures and information tend to be in German, although the management attempts to provide explanations in Turkish and English as well. According to Fahn, all staff members are trilingual and he prides himself on a large international staff, with 260 employees for 200 rooms. Of these, 230 are Turkish. Of the rest, most come from German-speaking countries, with a sprinkling of others from a wide variety of countries around the world.

The food is plentiful and, for the most part, very good. The breakfast buffet features 85 items, including several types of bread, rolls and croissants baked on the premises. Buffet lunches and dinners include free wine and beer and often include smoked salmon, seafood and steaks, as well as a good selection of local Turkish dishes and plenty of fresh salads. There was only one meal which I found less than satisfactory, a so-called "Asian" dinner, where the food tasted like something one might find at a provincial German

cafe did a Chinese dinner.

Like the Club Med, Robinson Club features nightly programs, musical extravaganzas with elaborate costumes and scenery, high-tech lighting and music, and local talent, including guests, as performers. Every night, the program is followed by dancing and a midnight snack. There are no beads for drinks, but rather booklets of black, red and white coupons, figured in German marks.

The insistence that the facility is a vacation club, rather than a hotel, may sometimes seem a bit puritanical in the plush surroundings. There is no room service, unless you are ill, and no television in the rooms. Most bizarre of all is the fact that no shampoo or bath gel is laid out in the luxurious bath, but only a slim bar of soap, every other day. Fahn says all that is likely to change next year, when guests at Maris are likely to find not only bubble bath and television sets, but even mini-bars in their rooms.

From now until the end of the season, however, visitors should come with their own shampoo. The club closes its doors this year on November 7. For Israelis, a week at Robinson Club Maris is \$850 for adults and \$425 for children, until the end of August. From September 1, the price drops to \$763 for adults and \$398 for children. The price includes full board, transfers and scheduled flights to Dalaman, 130 kilometers from the hotel, on Turkish Airlines, which boasts the youngest fleet of any European airline.

Beit She'an recreation park opens

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE first section of a giant recreation park, Ganei Hoga, has been opened in the Beit She'an Valley near the southern entrance to Beit She'an, about a kilometer from the Jordanian border.

The part now open extends over 450 dunams in an area that is to eventually cover 1,200 dunams. Natural springs provide the water for three rock-enclosed swimming pools.

There are lawns, trees, shaded areas, a children's play area, showers and changing rooms, a snack bar and a picnic area with tables, benches and grills. Entrance costs NIS 10 for adults and NIS 5 for children.

NATOUR is offering package tours to Turkey for the holidays beginning at \$384, including airfare and half board. There is a surcharge of \$65 per person for flights leaving on September 16 (the day after Yom Kippur). The company also offers one facility.

Club Adora at Belek, where kosher food is available if ordered in advance.

For those who want to go farther and can pay more, Ofakim Tours has a 16-day Succot tour of Brazil and Argentina for \$1,995, including airfare.

PHOTOGRAPHY bugs can take advantage of Lufthansa's packages for Photokina, the international photography exhibition to be held in Cologne on September 22-27.

A package including air fare and six nights in a room in a private home is available for \$547. The price of the package with hotel accommodation starts at \$1,141.

AMERICAN AIRLINES has a special \$1,399 fare from Israel to

Mexico in September and October, and a \$1,349 fare from November through May. The fare can be utilized through any of the airline's European destinations and can also include a stopover in the US.

OMNIWORLD, a new company specializing in travel to France and the Alps, is offering six-night stays in luxury hotels in Cannes, Deauville and Enghien for between FR 9,100 and FR 14,875 (about \$1,650 to \$2,750) per couple.

The price includes breakfast, a rental car for the week, and free entry into the hotel casino, but not airfare.

IF THE air seems stuffy when you're in an airplane, that's because it probably is, according to research conducted by the US

Consumer Reports magazine, which sent volunteers on 158 flights on 44 types of planes with instruments to measure temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide levels.

According to the magazine's August issue, the volunteers found that on about one in four flights the air in cabins exceeded carbon dioxide levels established as the "comfort threshold" by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

The stalest air was in the Boeing 757s, the freshest in the Boeing 747-400s. If the air seems bad, the magazine recommends asking the attendants to turn up the ventilation and getting off the plane during intermediate stops.

It also suggests that those with asthma bring an inhaler, and that anyone with serious heart or respiratory problems and a doctor's prescription should ask the airlines in advance to provide oxygen equipment.

Therapy to go

LIFE-STYLE

LISA GENASCI

YOU'VE heard of the one-hour photo and dry-cleaning services, of manicurists and hairstylists who attend the too-busy at home. Add to that therapy on the run for those without the hour to spend on a couch.

In a telling example of time-starved living, a service set up by two New York psychologists offers therapy in a van—anywhere.

Patients can buckle up and talk to a shrink while a chauffeur drives them to and from work, around the block, even en route to the airport.

The practice now has 40 clients, four vans and a staff of six trained in therapy ranging from Gestalt to cognitive behavioral, said Shelly Lenox, one of the founders.

Susan Anderson, a patient since Mobile Psychological Services hit the road in April, is the perfect candidate. A mother with two young children and a fast-paced job as a merchandising director in the apparel industry, she was struggling through a divorce.

"Therapy was important and beneficial but I didn't have the time," said Anderson, who leaves home in a New York suburb at 7 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m.

Now, the van picks up Anderson outside her office on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and her sessions take place on the commute home.

"It's an unfortunate statement on the 1990s that this is necessary, but it's reality," Anderson said.

Each of the sleek gray chauffeured Chevy vans is fitted with sound-proof, one-way glass between the front seat and "office." The traditional clinic sits on a wall. A box of tissues adorns a small table between two plush red chairs and a couch. Blinds cover the tinted windows. Curtains give it a homey feel.

Anderson said the van is quieter than her office, where faxes and phones create a cacophony.

The cost is \$175 per session and they usually last an hour, although if the van encounters traffic, patients talk longer without charge. That's steeper than the standard cost of therapy in New York City of \$125 per session.

Still, 98 percent of health insurance plans have a mental health benefit and cover about 80 percent of the cost, said Dan DiFonzo, spokesman for the Health Insurance Association of America.

"As long as the psychologists are licensed and are practicing within ethical standards, there should be no reason why the cost is not covered," DiFonzo said.

The idea started with Lenox's partner in the enterprise, Ursula Strauss, a clinical health psychologist, who saw an increasingly large number of patients were unable to make regular appointments.

"They were busy executives with an imbalance in their lives toward work rather than recreation and interpersonal life," said Lenox.

Advertisements in *The Wall Street Journal* have attracted mostly investment bankers. They tend to share problems revolving around stress disorders, anxiety, substance abuse and difficulty with relationships or marriages, Lenox said.

The duo said they're thinking of franchising mobile therapy. But their success also has led to some soul-searching.

"I worry whether we are feeding into a problem in society by fulfilling an irrational need," Lenox said.

Others questioned the value of therapy on the run. Prof. Nathaniel Raskin, a psychotherapist in Evanston, Illinois, said the concept was a difficult one.

Therapy, Raskin said, is "a process that calls for some relaxation, consideration, a slower pace."

But other forms of therapy for the time-starved have appeared in recent years and enjoy some degree of success. Telephone therapy is becoming popular, and home-based interactive computer programs are increasing.

"There is no evidence showing that where therapy is done makes any difference," said James Prochaska, professor of clinical and health psychology at the University of Rhode Island. (AP)



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1994

Bank Leumi reports fall in net profits

BANK Leumi yesterday reported an 85.3 percent drop in second quarter net profits to NIS 13.3 million from NIS 90.4m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits for the first half of the year fell 21.2% to NIS 100.2m. from NIS 126.5m.

The decrease was largely due to the sharp fall in the stock market. Leumi is the last of the five largest commercial banks to report its results.

The net return on equity for the first six months fell to 4.1% on an annualized basis from 6.3% in the corresponding period last year.

The bank achieved the lowest return on equity among the five largest commercial banks.

Profits from financing activity before provision for doubtful debts fell 22.2% in the second quarter to NIS 506.4m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Banks' second quarter results

Bank	net income (in NIS mil.)	% change from 2 qtr 1993	annual (%) net return
Hapoalim	115.9	120	10.4
Leumi	13.3	85	4.1
Discount	50.1	27	5.7
International	29.9	14	9.3
Mizrahi	24.9	22	10.0

In the first six months, profit from financing activity declined 16.4% to NIS 1,056. The decrease was blamed on a fall of the general interest margin.

Profits from financing activity also fell as a result of NIS 19.6m.

In losses due to the restructuring of Leumi's US holding company from an independent unit to a division.

Provisions for doubtful debts fell 20% in the second quarter to NIS 93.19m. from NIS 117m.

Provisions for doubtful debts declined 3.7% in the first half to NIS 228.4m. As a result of the sharp fall in the value of securities traded on the stock exchange, Leumi made provisions for securities used as guarantees for credit.

A provision of NIS 62.7m. was made in the first half for the agricultural sector.

Operating and other income fell 9.7% in the second quarter to NIS 382.4m., while operating income in the first half was NIS 858.5m., virtually unchanged over the corresponding period last year.

Leumi said the results reflect a fall in capital market activity in the second quarter, a drop in commissions from securities and a reduction in the value of securities held by subsidiaries.

Operating and other expenses fell 3.4% in the second quarter to NIS 713.4m. In the first half, operating expenses fell 0.3% to NIS 1,426.

They include a provision of NIS 90m. for pension obligations and workers' retirement compen-

sation, mainly resulting from the fall in the value of securities on the capital market - which reduced the value of workers' provident funds and compensation funds.

The group's share in the profit of unconsolidated subsidiaries slipped to a NIS 3.4m. loss for the second quarter from a NIS 1.6m. profit in the corresponding period last year.

Leumi's share in the profit in the first half fell to a NIS 600,000 loss, compared with a NIS 4m. profit in the same period last year.

Leumi's total assets fell 0.3% to NIS 94.1b. at the end of the first half from NIS 94.5b. at the end of 1993.

Loans outstanding to the public increased 2.3% to NIS 50.3b. from NIS 49.1b. Deposits from the public grew 2% to NIS 67.3b. from NIS 66b. at the end of 1993.

Tariffs cut today between 5%-10%

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE fourth stage of the program to open the local market to imports from countries that do not have trade agreements with Israel will start today, State Revenues director Yoram Gabbai announced yesterday.

Under the program, which began in September 1991, tariffs on imports are automatically cut every year by between 5 percent and 10%.

The items affected include textiles and clothing, shoes and sports shoes, medicines, fertilizers, fans, metal chains and pipes.

Tariffs will fluctuate between 20% and 30% on most items, except for textiles and wood products. The maximum duty on textiles will be 72%, while the duty on wood will be 60%.

By the end of the program, in September 1998, import duties on these items, except for textiles, will stand at either 8% or 12%, depending on the product.

The textile lobby successfully pressured the government last year to extend by two years the process of lowering tariffs on textiles.

With the new reductions, tariffs will already be close to their final levels on some items - including medicines, fertilizer, synthetic fibers and fans.

The Treasury reports that the program has so far increased competition, and that today's even lower tariffs further the process and help promote more efficient production by the local industry.

The lower tariffs are making in-



Gabbai: Reductions will help fight inflation.

ports competitive with locally produced goods, thereby bringing down the price on those goods.

According to Gabbai, not only do the consumers gain from the cheaper prices, but the economy as a whole benefits from lower inflation.

Shohat to discuss debt plan for kibbutzim

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat will meet today with bank heads and kibbutz movement leaders to discuss the NIS 5.8 billion follow-up kibbutz debt arrangement proposal.

Shohat will meet with Bank Hapoalim board chairman Amiram Sivan, Bank Leumi managing director David Friedman and Bank Mizrahi managing director David Blumberg.

According to reports, Shohat will ask the banks to bear up to two-thirds of the cost of forgiven debt, while the government will cover the remaining third.

According to the Swary report

on the new debt arrangement, the debt to be written-off of the 70 kibbutzim which are the main focus of the proposal will amount to NIS 2b.

A similar amount will have to be forgiven for the 32 additional kibbutzim that are in particularly bad financial health.

Treasury Budget Director David Brodet has estimated that the arrangement will cost the government NIS 1.25b. Next year's budget already includes NIS 350 million to deal with the NIS 600m. debt of the newer kibbutzim, which were not included in the arrangement.

Portfolio manager suspected of fraud

RAINE MARCUS

AN independent portfolio manager, suspected of defrauding his clients by investing in bad deals on the stock exchange, was questioned by the Tel Aviv fraud squad and then released on bail Tuesday.

Five of his clients have filed complaints with police that the 27-year-old Ramat Aviv resident deliberately misled them and then sent forged financial reports.

Investors' losses totaled some NIS 1 million, but it does not seem he stole clients' money, said fraud squad head Chief Superintendent Shmuel Greenbaum.

"The investigation is still in progress, but at this stage we are more inclined to believe that the man simply covered up for his badly managed deals by sending them false reports," Greenbaum said. "We don't think he stole the money, but we are still investigating."

The portfolio manager received

money from friends and family members, who hoped to reap profits on the stock exchange. He worked with another company who supplied him with computer services.

Portfolios started to accumulate large losses, and clients automatically received monthly reports on their securities, police said. When they confronted the broker, he told them the computer printouts were out of date and promised to send them updated ones.

To calm his clients down, the man allegedly forged reports, using photo montage and other methods.

The new reports showed investments to be viable, but clients later found out the securities' values had plummeted and their money had dwindled.

The man reportedly worked alone, said police.

Daimler Benz posts rebound in profits for first half

LONDON (Reuters) - Daimler-Benz, Germany's largest industrial group, reported a sharp rebound in first-half profits yesterday and said higher car sales and radical restructuring had turned the group around.

The cars-to-locomotives-and-aircraft conglomerate reported an operating profit of DM 926 million marks (\$586m.) for the first six months of 1994 against a DM2.36 billion (\$1.49b.) loss a year earlier.

Chairman Edzard Reuter said forecasts of "a thoroughly satisfactory operating profit for the year in total are proving correct," and hinted the dividend might be raised.

Group sales rose to DM 48.96b. (\$30.96b.) in the first half from DM 43.19b. (\$27.31b.).

Daimler, which adopted US accounting principles after listing its shares in the US market last year, also reported a net profit of DM 369m. (\$233m.) against a net loss last year of DM 949m. (\$600m.).

Investors welcomed the news and the share-market price traded up 9.70 marks to 837.50 marks after the results.

Analysts had been unsure whether Daimler would show a profit under US rules, which do not allow the drawing down of reserves to bolster weak earnings.

Under more lenient German accounting rules, Daimler reported a net profit of DM 462m. (\$292m.) against DM 168m. (\$106.2m.) a year earlier.

Reuter said the recovery was a result of radical cost-cutting combined with better sales, particularly for its all-important Mercedes-Benz vehicle manufacturer which accounts for more than two-thirds of group turnover.

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Something fishy about gefilte claims

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Israel Consumer Council has analyzed the contents of canned gefilte fish and found that not one out of the five brands surveyed was up to standard.

The study, carried out at the Standards Institution's chemicals and foods laboratories, found that in all cases - Manischewitz, Rokeach, Hadag Hameyuhad, Dag Shean and Mittel - the percentage of fish meat was low.

Extremely high percentages of starch were found in four of the five. In three, the quantity of gefilte fish patties was too small in relation to container size. The council did find that all brands tested met standards set for taste, aroma, texture and freshness.

Noted as the chief culprit was popular US brand Rokeach, whose net weight after drainage was 292.3 grams - not the 455 grams advertised on the label. This represents a mere 39 percent of net weight as compared to the 65% standard minimum.

"In actuality, there are patties only in the top half of the jar, while the bottom half holds only sauce and carrot

slices," the Consumer Council report reads. "Protein-containing nitrogen was a low 1.42%, as compared with the standard minimum of 1.6%.

The list price for the large-size 750 gram jar: NIS 22.99.

Manischewitz's drained net weight was 63.3% compared with 65%, with a 1.31% protein-containing nitrogen level, compared to 1.6%. Starch levels were 3.95% instead of the maximum 1.5% standard. The price for a 737 gram jar: NIS 19.90.

Dag Shean's drained net weight was a low 55.7%, with protein-containing nitrogen levels of 1.31% and starch levels precisely double that of the minimum at 2.10%. The price for a 713 gram jar: NIS 17.90.

Jerusalem's Hadag Hameyuhad had a starch level of 2.24%, along with protein-containing nitrogen levels of 1.37%. A 738 gram jar was priced at NIS 20.40.

Mittel's starch level was an astronomical 4.44%, with protein-containing nitrogen levels of 1.14%. The price tag for a small-sized 440 gram jar also reached new highs at NIS 13.90.

Bezek reports NIS 57 million net profit in first half of year

COMPANY RESULTS

JUDY SIEGEL, RACHEL NEIMAN and AMIR ROZENBLIT

Elta Electronics Industries posted a rise in net profits for the second quarter to \$3.7m. from \$1.5m. during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to \$70.6m. from \$62m., while earnings per share went up to \$0.25 from \$0.10. The company said the previous year's results had been influenced by the cancellation of export incentives.

Elta announced that general director Yehuda Frenkel submitted his resignation to the board of directors of parent company Israel Aircraft Industries.

Evergreen reported a second quarter net loss of NIS 895,000, compared with a NIS 821,000 net profit during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 1.6m.

from NIS 1m. during the reported quarter in the previous year.

The loss was attributed to decreased value of company portfolio, losses on realization of obligation underwritten by the company and a drop in the value of options granted to Evergreen in return for management of private placements.

Degem Systems announced a rise in second quarter net profits to NIS 648,000 from NIS 459,000 during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 23.6m. from NIS 16.6m., while earnings per share rose to NIS 0.09 from NIS 0.08.

The company, which deals in computerized manufacturing systems with educational applications, said it continued its policy of aggressive marketing activity

abroad in Eastern Europe, Mexico and in Southeast Asia.

Lodzia-Rotex suffered NIS 566,000 in second quarter net losses, compared with NIS 593,000 in net losses during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 14.3m. from NIS 14m.

Williger announced net losses of NIS 2.9m. for the second quarter, compared with NIS 1.3m. in net profits during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 13.8m. from NIS 10.4m.

Rotem-Amert posted a sharp rise in net profits for the first half of the year to NIS 15.2m. from NIS 100,000 during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 539m. from NIS 402m.

Dovrat Shrem suffered a NIS 2.3m. net loss in the second quarter after posting a NIS 2m. net profit during the same period last year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

'Grey market' can charge up to 38.27% interest: Non-banking institution - better known as the "grey market" - can legally charge up to 38.27 percent interest on unlinked shekel loans, based on the Bank of Israel's published average rate that banks charge on such loans.

Under the law, which limits the maximum interest non-banking institutions can charge, the "grey market" is allowed to charge up to 2.25 times the average bank rate, which reached 17.01% in June.

Bank of Israel raises interest rate today: The Bank of Israel today will raise by 1.5 percent the interest it charges banks on the daily tender. Commercial banks, in turn, will increase tomorrow by a similar amount the interest they charge consumers on overdrafts and other credit, as well as the interest it pays them on their deposits.

Shlomo Lorincz appointed as head of Bank of Israel committee: Finance Minister Avraham Shohat announced yesterday his appointment of former Knesset Finance Committee chairman Shlomo Lorincz as head of the Bank of Israel's advisory committee and advisory board.

This is Shohat's second attempt, after the appointment was disqualified earlier this year by an independent government appointments review committee, headed by retired judge Mordechai Ben-Dror, for failing to meet the requirements under the Government Companies Law. As a result, the law was amended to allow experience in the appropriate field of responsibility replace academic qualifications.

The governor of the Bank of Israel is required to consult with the advisory committee on most important policy matters, including the setting of liquidity requirements on banks. The governor primarily reports to the advisory board on the central bank's monetary policy and requires the board's approval for the minting of currency.

Yossi Kucik replaces Granit as Treasury wage director: Treasury wage director Shalom Granit, who completed his last day on the job conducting intensive negotiations with school teachers yesterday, left for the private sector, where he will establish a labor relations consultancy. Granit is being replaced by Yossi Kucik, who is an ally of Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

Shohat had appointed Kucik earlier to become civil service commissioner, but was disqualified by the Ben-Dror government appointments committee who determined it a political appointment.

WORLD BRIEFS

Key US economic forecasting gauge flat: The government's main economic forecasting gauge was flat in July, the US Commerce Department said yesterday, suggesting weaker momentum for growth in coming months. The Index of Leading Indicators, which is supposed to forecast economic trends six to nine months ahead, rose a moderate 0.2 percent in June.

SBC muscled into US asset management business: Swiss Bank Corp (SBC) said yesterday it planned to buy successful US asset management group Brinson Partners, Inc. by the end of the year for around \$750 million. The purchase will boost SBC's total assets under management to a more respectable \$Fr 65 billion (francs \$48.8b.) from the current \$Fr 20b. (\$15b.), relatively low by Swiss standards.

Alcatel plays down new fraud allegations: French industrial giant Alcatel Alsthom yesterday played down fresh press allegations about fraudulent activities in the group's recent past, which again turned stock market attention on its shares.

An Alcatel spokesman said current managers were not the subject of allegations published in satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* concerning overbilling, false accounting and a slush fund.

Ciba profit hit by Swiss franc, plunge in bonds: Swiss pharmaceuticals and chemicals group Ciba-Geigy AG yesterday said net profit was steady in the first half of the year, despite the negative effect of a strong Swiss franc and turbulent financial markets. Ciba said operating profit rose almost \$Fr 400 million (\$300m.), but a weakening of most currencies to the franc then shaved off \$Fr 300m. (\$225m.).

Swedish drug group Astra reports strong growth: Swedish drug group AB Astra, the country's biggest company by market capitalization, yesterday reported a 23 percent increase in profits in the first half of the year to 4.5 billion crowns (\$580 million). Astra said sales of its prestige drugs, the anti-ulcer agent Losec and anti-asthma medicine Pulmicort, made sharp gains, outstripping overall market growth in most countries.

IDB Holding, IDB Development reports drop in net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

IDB Holding and IDB Development yesterday reported a sharp drop in net profits for the second quarter and first half of the year, mainly due to a sharp fall in the market value of traded securities held by companies in the IDB group.

IDB Holding's net profits in the second quarter fell 84.3 percent to NIS 7.6m. from NIS 48.5m. in the corresponding period last year, while capital gains decreased to NIS 2m. from NIS 24m.

Net income for the first half of the year dropped 94% to NIS 7.2m. from NIS 123.2m.

during the same period last year. The profits include NIS 21m. in capital gains, compared with NIS 79m. in capital gains and non-recurring income.

In the second quarter, the company incurred a NIS 34m. decline in the value of traded securities, while in the first six months IDB group companies incurred NIS 67m. in losses.

IDB Development reported a 92% drop in net profits to NIS 6m. from NIS 75.6m. Group losses from the fall in the value of traded securities were NIS 29m.

The company's net profit for the first half of the year fell to NIS 33.3m. from NIS 148.3m. for the corresponding period in 1993.

The decline in net income was due mainly to a negative return, in real terms, of NIS 64m. on liquid assets held by companies in the group.

Net income for the first half includes a drop in capital gains to NIS 29m. from NIS 72m.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (\$1.8.94)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.250	4.500	5.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.075	4.375	5.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.514	4.575	4.875
Swiss franc (Sfr 200,000)	0.554	0.527	0.537
Yen (10 million yen)	1.952	2.251	2.251
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)			
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (\$1.8.94)			
Currency basket	BUY	SELL	BUY
U.S. dollar	3.2250	3.2750	3.2500
German mark	1.2820	1.2820	1.2820
Pound sterling	4.5141	4.5750	4.5500
French franc	0.5540	0.5270	0.5370
Japanese yen (100)	3.0059	3.0494	3.0250
Dutch guilder	1.9522	1.9772	1.9700
Swiss franc	0.5540	0.5270	0.5370
Swedish krona	0.2870	0.2894	0.2870
Norwegian krona	0.4328	0.4327	0.4328
Danish krone	0.4815	0.4883	0.4870
Finnish mark	0.5988	0.5989	0.5988
Canadian dollar	2.1811	2.2241	2.2000
Australian dollar	2.2335	2.2651	2.2400
S. African rand	0.8386	0.8304	0.8300
Belgian franc (10)	0.9063	0.9173	0.9100
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7034	2.7418	2.7200
Italian lire (1000)	1.8918	1.9185	1.9000
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—
Israeli pound	—	—	—
ECU	3.8272	3.8765	3.8500
High point	4.5501	4.5145	4.4400
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2534	2.2528	2.2500
* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.			
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI			

Mansdorf outclasses Sanchez at US Open

Post Sports Staff and agencies

AMOS Mansdorf continued his recent good form with a victory in the first round of the US Open in New York Tuesday night when he beat Spain's Emilio Sanchez 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

The Israeli No. 1, currently 63 in the world, dominated most of the match and had little difficulty overcoming his Spanish opponent, ranked 121. He lost his serve only once during the match - on his way to losing the third set.

Mansdorf's next opponent is Italy's Gianluca Pozzi, ranked 131. In yesterday's action, Pete Sampras opened up the defense of his men's singles title with a romp over qualifier Kevin Ulivetti of South Africa.

The hard-serving Sampras wasn't really tested in the 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 victory as he began his bid to win his third Grand Slam title of the year.

"I didn't have any problems," Sampras said. "I had a long rest. It's been six weeks since I played a competitive match."

It was the first tournament for Sampras since his Wimbledon victory, although he did play in the US's Davis Cup victory over the Netherlands July 15 to 17.

Sampras had 10 aces among his 38 winners in the 85-minute match. He also made 20 unforced errors, half of them in the middle set when his concentration appeared to waver.

In the women's singles, No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario led a parade of seeded players into the third round. Only No. 16 Amy Frazier failed to advance, while No. 9 Mary Joe Fernandez was pushed to the limit.

Sanchez Vicario, the reigning French Open champion, lost her concentration in the second set but still prevailed over Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

Fernandez, a baseliner who twice has reached the final of the Australian Open but has never won a Grand Slam tournament, served and volleyed on the final two points to close out a 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Patty Fendick.

"I hit two good serves and fortunately I was able to knock off the volley," Fernandez said.

Frazier fell to Ukraine's Natalia Medvedeva 6-2, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4 in the only upset in the day's early matches.

Medvedeva's brother, Andrei Medvedev, seeded eighth, celebrated his 20th birthday by defeating Austria's Gilbert Schaller in a first-round match.

In another first-round match, No. 14 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia defeated Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 7-6 (7-4), 7-5, 6-3.

On Tuesday, Jim Courier Courier came out blazing against Aaron Krickstein to win 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 while other seeded players kept struggling. Two seeds, Goran Ivanisevic and Boris Becker, have already peeled away from the tournament.

Courier yielded only eight points in the first five games and dominated throughout the match.

"I didn't have the fire at Indianapolis," said Courier, seeded No. 11. "That's what I went searching for, to see if I still had that fire. It's there. It was just hiding. That was one thing I was looking for, win or lose, whether I had the fire."



HARD HITTER - Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain fires a backhand shot during the US Open yesterday. Vicario advanced to the third round.

British runner tests positive for drugs

LONDON (Reuters) - Details of the Diane Modahl affair burst into the open yesterday when the International Amateur Athletic Federation disclosed the British runner had tested positive with an "astounding" testosterone ratio of over 40:1.

The normal level is 1-1. A ratio of 6-1 or more is considered positive.

IAAF spokesman Chris Winner urged Britain's Sports Council to "come forward with any information that might assist the IAAF in making an informed and proper decision on how this athlete came to test positive."

However, Modahl claimed there had been "material changes" to her drug test second sample, taken at a meeting in Lisbon in June, and pledged to prove her innocence.

Earlier, veteran British athletics official Sir Arthur Gold, said: "There were no procedural irregularities, I have been at some pains to check that. There is no suggestion that it was not her sample and the test was carried out in accordance with IOC rules."

"It showed a large amount of testosterone and we now have to find out how that appeared in her body."

Modahl's B sample was tested on Tuesday at Portugal's Institute of Legal Medicine. Among those present were her husband and coach Vicente.

Winner announced early yesterday that the second sample had confirmed the data in the positive A sample and that the 28-year-old 800 meters runner was suspended. Within hours of the announce-

ment from Monaco, home of the IAAF, British team doctor Malcolm Brown said he believed the athlete to be innocent, arguing: "There are a number of findings which just do not add up."

Winner at first declined to name the substance involved. But later the IAAF said it wanted to make certain facts known: "as a result of unprecedented interest and in the light of dozens of erroneous statements threatening to make a mockery of the entire doping control process."

Winner told Reuters: "Diane Modahl, in both her A and B samples, tested positive for extraordinarily high levels of testosterone/epitestosterone, surpassing the 40:1 mark compared with the 1-1 normal."

"Clearly the IAAF has no explanation for this astounding ratio nor is there any question that doping procedures were mishandled or phials tampered with."

The anabolic male hormone testosterone normally exists in the body in a ratio of 1-1 to its natural regulatory substance, epitestosterone.

A doping offense is normally registered at 6-1 or above, although a grey area is said to exist between 6-1 and 10-1 where the International Olympic Committee recommends calling for more tests to rule out the possibility that an athlete may be producing the hormone naturally.

BAF spokesman Tony Ward said yesterday Modahl would be asked to attend a hearing at a time mutually convenient.

The hearing must take place within 30 days.

No progress in NHL labor flap

NEW YORK (AP) - What next for the NHL's labor negotiations?

"We're having discussions and we're working very hard," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said.

At least they're talking. On Tuesday, for the third time in six days, representatives of the NHL and the NHL Players Association met in an attempt to work out a new collective bargaining agreement.

Except for Bettman's succinct statement issued by his New York office, there was little to report about the five-hour meeting in Toronto.

No new talks were immediately scheduled, but it was believed the negotiators would meet again later this week, possibly in New York.

On the horizon is the specter of a league-wide lockout of players from training camp.

The Dallas Morning News reported Tuesday that Bettman will order a training camp lockout beginning Monday if no contract agreement is reached by then.

The NHL said the story "at this time is incorrect."

"We have set no deadline (for a lockout)," said Arthur Pincus, vice president for public relations.

The players feel differently. "We hear he (Bettman) took a vote to get authorization for a lockout," said Tom Reich, an agent for 20 NHL players.

The players are all prepared to go to training camp, despite a string of sanctions by Bettman that has made the commissioner Enemy No. 1 to the players.

Bettman has said if a new agreement is not worked out by today, when the Winnipeg Jets become the first team to report to training camp, he will eliminate

meal allowances, force players to pay their way to training camp and reduce rosters, among other things.

Bob Goodenow, executive director of the NHLPA, and NHL lawyers met in the past week with officials in both Ontario and Alberta to discuss labor laws.

Under laws regarding strikes and lockouts in those provinces, there has to be a conciliation process before any such action can occur. That would prevent the NHL from closing camps in Edmonton and Calgary until September 11 and in Toronto and Ottawa until September 16.

Cliff Fletcher, president of the Toronto Maple Leafs, said his team would stick by the law and open camp on Monday, as scheduled.

Starting with the Jets, most teams are scheduled to open camp this weekend. The Chicago Blackhawks are the last to start, with rookies, junior players and tryouts reporting on Sunday and veterans due in training camp September 9.

Tuesday's meeting was the first between the negotiators since Sunday, when they came away from a five-hour session without an agreement. They also met last Thursday.

Salaries are the main issue. Owners are seeking to tie salaries to team revenue. Players hope to have salaries set by the open market. The players' ultimate goal is free agency, something owners have rejected in the past.

This time, both sides hope to avoid the problems of two seasons ago when the players staged a 10-day strike, the first in league history.

Hap. Holon's 'Dream Team' may not meet expectations

JOEL GORDIN

THERE will be two main centers of attraction tonight when the first round of 1994/95 National League Basketball gets under way.

The first is at Gvat, where Hapoel Holon meets the local team.

One of the big questions marks of the season is how Holon sponsor Nahum Miniver's "Dream Team"

of Eddie Phillips, David Thirkill, Adi Gordon, Tomer Steinhauer and Pini Levy will pull together. They have not impressed anyone

in practice and there are already rumors that Phillips may be sent home.

The second focus of attention is at Kfar Blum where Hapoel Galil Elyon is at home to league newcomers, Hapoel Haifa. Galil was knocked out of the State Cup this week by the Second Division's Maccabi Hadera and another such loss would be a morale-bashing

blow to Pini Gershon's men.

There will be live broadcasts of all the games on both Radio 2 and Army Radio. The Jerusalem "denby" Saturday night between Maccabi and Hapoel will be shown live on Cable TV's Channel 5.

The fixtures are (home team mentioned first): Tonight - Gvat vs. Holon; Hapoel Galil vs. Hapoel Haifa; Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Ramat Gan; Hapoel Givatayim vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv; Hapoel Eilat vs. Maccabi Bnei Leony; Bnei Herzliya vs. Bnei Ramat Gan. Saturday - Hapoel Jerusalem vs. Maccabi Jerusalem.

Everton signs Nigerian World Cup star

LONDON (AP) - Everton joined the market for World Cup soccer stars by signing Nigerian Daniel Amokachi for a club record £3 million yesterday.

Amokachi is the eighth player from this summer's World Cup in the US to be signed by an English club this season.

The 21-year-old striker will join Everton in a three-year deal from Belgian outfit FC Bruges.

Amokachi, who scored 35 goals in three seasons in the Belgian league and 14 goals in 26 international appearances, caught the eye of Everton manager Mike Walker who saw him score against Bulgaria and Greece in the World Cup.

Amokachi said he had watched videos of the great Everton sides of the 1980s in his youth, and admitted the club was now in tough times.

"But I know the manager believes that we can make everything good again and I want to be part of that," he said.

NBA voids another Dudley contract

NEW YORK (AP) - Chris Dudley is hip deep in the NBA's salary cap struggles - again.

Dudley, a 6-foot-11 center who signed a six-year contract with the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday, had it voided on Tuesday by the league, which claimed it violates salary cap rules.

Last year as a free agent, Dudley signed a seven-year contract with Portland with a first-year salary of \$790,400, the most the team could pay under the salary cap.

The NBA took him to federal court because of a one-year opt-out clause, which the league argued was a circumvention of its salary cap. The clause allowed Dudley to void the contract after one season. The NBA lost that suit.

The NBA feared that Dudley signed the deal with the clear intention of voiding the pact, so he could resign with the Trail Blazers for virtually an unlimited amount.

Teams can exceed the salary cap to retain their own free agents.

As expected, Dudley opted out of the seven-year, \$11 million contract he signed last season and the team announced Monday that he signed a new six-year deal. The NBA said Tuesday it calls for an average salary of \$4 million per season.

"The court's opinion last year made it clear that if the use of one-year opt-outs became widespread or showed further evidence of circumventions, new contracts would be subject to challenge by the league," said Jeff Mishkin, NBA senior vice president of legal and business affairs.

"We think the latest Dudley contract proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that circumvention occurred."

Earlier this summer, the NBA voided contracts with opt-out clauses by A.C. Green with the Phoenix Suns, Toni Kukoc with the Chicago Bulls and Horace Grant with the Orlando Magic.

'Key evidence withheld in James Jordan's killing'

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP) - Charges should be dismissed against one of the teenagers charged with killing former basketball player Michael Jordan's father because the prosecutor has held back critical evidence, defense attorneys said Tuesday.

Evidence includes one sighting of James Jordan after the slaying. He was supposed to have been killed, and two reports indicating other people talking about committing a similar crime, said defense lawyer Woodberry Bowen. The evidence is a year old.

"Most of these reports would have been in the district attorney's hands way back in the fall," Bowen said. "Some of them contain exculpatory material."

Bowen represents Daniel Andre Green, who with Larry Martin Demery, is charged with first-degree murder, armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery in the elder Jordan's death last July.

Superior Court Judge Gregory Weeks said he would rule on the motion by the next hearing, which may be held in October. The judge will review the reports in the meantime.

"In a case like this, there are a lot of incredible claims that are made," said District Attorney Richard Townsend.

Bowen said Townsend gave the defense 23 statements from individuals from as far away as Florida, New York and California. The statements were handed over last Friday and should have been provided much earlier, he said.

Rain interrupts Lara's bid for record

LONDON (Reuters) - Brian Lara was in sight of equaling fellow West Indian Alvin Kallicharran's Warwickshire record of nine first-class centuries in a season when rain intervened at Edgbaston yesterday.

He reached an unbeaten 89 off only 93 balls as the county championship leaders took command of their match against Hampshire.

After five innings without a half century, Lara found his touch in an unbroken stand of 156 with Roger Twose (84 not out) as Warwickshire made 210 for one in reply to Hampshire's 278.

Lara needs only 36 more runs to become the first Warwickshire batsman to make 2,000 in a season since Kallicharran and Dennis Amiss, both in 1984.

Lara was particularly severe on

the spin of Shaun Udal and Rajesh Manu, hitting 11 fours in his highest score at Edgbaston since his world record 501 not out against Durham in June.

England batsman Graeme Hick moved to the brink of his ninth career double century at Old Trafford.

He hit an unbeaten 199 before bad light ended play early with Worcestershire on 352 for three in reply to Lancashire's 267 all out.

Hick, 69 not out overnight, has so far faced 243 balls and hit a six and 26 fours.

Nick Knight, awarded his county cap 24 hours earlier, struck a career best 152 not out to help Essex into a commanding position in their duel against Sussex at Chelmsford.

The 24-year-old left-handed

opener has so far helped himself to 23 fours and two sixes to lead Essex to 367 for six - a lead of 121.

But the most entertaining batting of the day came from former England captain Graham Gooch.

During his 79 he became only the 15th player to reach 40,000 first-class runs. His 88-ball innings included 15 fours and a six.

At Sheffield: Yorkshire 235 in 88.1 overs, Derbyshire 135-5 after 34 overs (C.A. Adams 66).

At Worcester: Nottinghamshire 476-6 declared in 143 overs (G.A. Archer 168, T. Robinson 99, C. Lewis 68 not out, P. Johnson 31), Glamorgan 4-0 after 2 overs.

At Edgbaston: Hampshire 278 in 108.2 overs, Warwickshire 210-1 after 45 overs (B. Lara 89 not out, R. Twose 84 not out).

At Chelmsford: Sussex 346 in 62.2 overs, Essex 367-6 after 96 overs (N. Knight 152 not out, G. Gooch 79, R. Lami 67).

At Old Trafford: Lancashire 267 in 62.3 overs, Worcestershire 352-3 after 99 overs (G. Hick 199 not out, T. Moody 87 not out).

Gooch, Gating may be called to Ashes tour

LONDON (Reuters) - Graham Gooch and Mike Gating, who have 78 Tests and 187 Test caps between them, may both be called up by England for the forthcoming tour of Australia.

Former England captain Gooch, 41, and Gating, 37, appear to have a good chance of figuring in the 16-strong squad to be announced tomorrow.

Their inclusion would represent a complete about-face in England's selection policy.

Twelve months ago, with Gooch unavailable and Gating having been dropped from the Test side during the home Ashes series, the account was firmly on youth when the party for the tour of West Indies was being chosen.

And two years ago, the England selectors opted, on age grounds, not to take David Gower on the tour of India and Sri Lanka as well as Gooch, then captain, and Gating.

Gooch, after scoring 210 in the first Test of the summer against New Zealand, subsequently totaled only 152 runs from nine innings in two more Tests against New Zealand and three against South Africa.

The opener's county form has remained impressive, justifying captain Mike Atherton's view that there is no better batsman in England.

Gating has been scoring heavily for Middlesex all season and the prospect of his England return arose when he was called up as cover for Gooch ahead of

the final Test against South Africa at The Oval earlier this month.

With Gooch nursing an injury, the selectors resisted the temptation to recall Robin Smith - dropped after the New Zealand series - and went for Gating, a clear guide to their longer-term thinking.

When Atherton, chairman Ray Illingworth and the co-selectors meet today to discuss the touring team, one of their major debating points will be who to select for the all-rounder's role.

Derbyshire's Dominic Cork, a combative player who bowls medium pace and can bat vigorously, is among the candidates, but an encouraging medical report this week may have sealed Craig White's place.

The 24-year-old Yorkshire-born, Australian-bred player was one of Illingworth's first selections after he became chairman just before the start of the season.

White played in four Tests before the pain from a double stress fracture to his left shin became unbearable.

"Craig is coming on really well," said Yorkshire physio Wayne Morton.

"He will be out of plaster next Tuesday and fit to tour, if picked."

England leaves in mid-October for its Ashes tour which includes five Tests and the limited overs World Series Cup.

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Shas's return to coalition put off as Meretz demands clarifications

SHAS's return to the coalition may be postponed until at least after the holidays, following Meretz's decision yesterday to ask Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for clarifications about his promises to Shas regarding religious legislation.

Meretz wants Rabin to make clear whether he will stand by his earlier commitment to Meretz, that religious legislation would only be effected with the consent of all the coalition partners.

Meretz rejected Rabin's request that it support Shas's immediate return to the coalition and announced it opposes the religious

legislation agreed upon between Labor and Shas. According to Rabin's suggestion, whenever the issue of religious legislation comes up, Meretz would be free to fight against it.

The controversy between Labor and Meretz focuses on Rabin's agreement with Shas five months ago to anchor the religious status quo in legislation. By such a procedure, Shas sought to make religious laws immune to Supreme Court rulings in cases of conflict between basic human rights laws and religious practice.

Meretz's Knesset faction met yesterday to discuss whether to

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

debate and approval of the party's institutions. Meretz also believes that Rabin should obtain the approval of his own party's institutions concerning his agreement with Shas, before asking for Meretz's support in bringing Shas back to the coalition.

Sarid said yesterday that "life is full of contradictions and an effort must be made to settle them. Clearly, maintaining a coalition in which both Shas and Meretz are partners is no easy matter. Sometimes I don't envy the prime minister. In any issue which arises, we

comply with Rabin's request. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni and MKs Benny Temkin and Naomi Hazan opposed it, while Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, Immigration Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban, and MKs Haim Oron and Dedi Zucker were in favor. It was decided, at Sarid's suggestion, that Meretz would set a meeting with Rabin in order to obtain clarifications.

Labor Party members yesterday also objected to Rabin's agreement with Shas, saying it is unacceptable that decisions concerning religious legislation should be made in small forums without the

shall make every effort to reach an agreement, because we really want Shas in the government; but not at a price which we cannot afford."

Meretz sources said a statement by Rabin reiterating his commitment to the agreement with Meretz would pave the way to its supporting Shas's rejoining the government. However, this would leave the situation as vague as ever, they said, because it would mean Meretz condoning Rabin's agreement with Shas on religious legislation while reserving the freedom to vote against such legislation when it comes up.

Shohat: Praise Rabin for reversal on bourse tax

EVELYN GORDON

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin should be praised for his courage in deciding to tax the stock exchange despite having promised not to do so, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday.

Shohat was speaking during a special Knesset session, which included several motions for the agenda relating to the bourse tax.

Shohat said Rabin's turnaround represented a statesman-like recognition that circumstances had changed, and government policy must change with them.

"[Rabin] should be praised... for being able to take such an important decision when he knew it would damage him personally," Shohat said.

Shohat said that all the problems regarding the stock exchange tax were close to a solution, and that he hoped to bring the law to the Knesset soon.

The bitterest attack on the proposed tax came from Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu, who termed it a panic response to rampant inflation, and promised to repeal it if the Likud ever returned to power.

Netanyahu also launched a widespread attack on the government's economic performance in general.

"Israel is the only country I have found in the industrialized Western world which has double-digit

inflation," he said. "The dizzying rise of inflation in Israel is not the result of any objective external economic factor; it is purely the result of this government's criminal, shlemiel-like economic decisions... Instead of being concerned with a free economic policy, the prime minister is implementing a policy of economic nepotism. This government is giving billions to the Histadrut, to Kupat Holim... And of course there is another unimportant sector called the kibbutzim, which is getting a mere NIS 12 billion."

"The whole Israeli economy has too many taxes. We need to lower taxes, not add taxes," Netanyahu added.

In response, Shohat said that while inflation was a problem, the government had made good progress in other areas, such as unemployment and growth. He also defended the stock exchange tax on the grounds that it was completely unjust for ordinary workers to pay high taxes while market speculators pay nothing.

If Netanyahu ever does come to power and cancel the tax, Shohat said, "I want him to look every salaried worker in the eyes... and tell him: 'You, on [earnings from] your labor, will pay 50%, but someone who makes millions on the capital market won't pay a cent.'"

Histadrut coalition crisis intensifies

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut leadership and the Labor Party failed to reach an agreement yesterday on resolutions to be made at today's Hevrat Ha'ovdim convention, furthering the possibility of a breakdown of the Histadrut coalition between Ram and Labor.

At issue is Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon's determination to sell off all the assets of Hevrat Ha'ovdim, the Histadrut holding company, to finance Histadrut activities. A meeting yesterday between Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oron, of Ram and Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvili failed to reach an agreement on the matter.

Labor's Histadrut faction activists have been engaged in intense efforts to recruit all the party's 500 delegates to the convention, to ensure a sufficient number of votes to sabotage Ramon's proposals. The composition of Hevrat Ha'ovdim's convention is the same as the Histadrut's convention, which means that Labor has one-third of the votes.

To strip the Histadrut's holding company of all its assets, Ramon needs to change Hevrat Ha'ovdim's constitution, which requires a 75% convention majority. Thus, in theory, Labor could easily thwart Ramon's intentions.

However, there are differences within Labor regarding Ramon's ideas. A group headed by the labor council secretaries of Jerusalem, Bat Yam and Netanya support Ram's position.

Zvili and Labor's Histadrut faction chairman Haim Haberfeld have called a meeting of Labor's faction for this morning, before the convention, to decide on Labor's final position.

Contractors: Illegal construction costs state NIS1b. a year

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE state loses some NIS 1 billion every year as a result of "black" construction, carried out by unregistered housing contractors, the Contractors Association said yesterday.

Contractors Association director-general Amos Baram said that a random check by the association of 100 building sites revealed 37 cases of construction being illegally carried out by unregistered, unlicensed contractors.

He noted that the unregistered contractors do not pay VAT, National Insurance and income tax, costing the state some NIS 1 billion annually.

Moreover, Baram said, it is difficult to determine the safety of

the buildings built by such contractors.

"An unregistered contractor is not bound to any standard of building or control and in fact can do whatever he wants to," Baram said. "Nobody knows whether he has the required experience, works with the suitable engineers and materials, or where he studied his trade. Besides, such contractors are not qualified to build and their work could be stopped at any moment [if discovered]."

The contractors also noted that many unregistered contractors bring in Palestinian workers without assuming that they have permits to work in Israel, thus creating a security hazard.

Soldiers who take building jobs may get early release

A PLAN to allow soldiers to be released early from their compulsory service if they take construction jobs was formulated yesterday. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, IDF Manpower Branch head Maj.-Gen. Yoram Yair, and heads of the Contractors Association held a special meeting to flesh out the proposal, under which soldiers would be able to cut three months off their service if they agree to work in the building sector.

The plan aims to present a solution to the dependence on Arab construction workers, following the recent murder of two Israeli men at a construction site in Ramle by Palestinians who were illegally employed. (Tm)

Water commissioner proposes individual allotments for farmers


DAVID RUDGE

WATER Commissioner Gideon Tsur yesterday unveiled revolutionary proposals for the allocation of water to individual farmers instead of collectively to moshavim.

The proposals, put forward in a meeting between Tsur and Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur, are aimed at making more effective use of water quotas for agriculture

in general. The agriculture minister said the proposed separation of water quotas would allow more flexibility in allocations.

He maintained that the "historical" allocation of water on a collective basis, as in the case of moshavim, was out of date and no longer compatible with modern farming methods.

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'Jerusalem Post' executive editor David Bar-Ilan (right) presents International Edition associate editor Gershom Gale with the Distinguished Employee Award at the newspaper's annual Rosh Hashana luncheon yesterday. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

Phone and postal rates go up - gas and egg prices go down

JUDY SIEGEL and JOSE ROSENFELD

BOTH Bezek and the Postal Authority are raising rates, effective today, after receiving approval from the ministers of communications and finance. Gas and egg prices, however, are taking a dip.

Phone rates: Local calls will cost 4.56¢ more; each phone unit will cost 22.4 agorot plus VAT instead of 21.4 agorot. Overseas calls will rise by 1.66¢; the increase is lower than for local calls, because until now, international dialing rates have been high enough to subsidize cheaper local calls.

Monthly service charges will be raised from NIS 16 to NIS 19 plus VAT. Transferring a phone line, however, will be much cheaper - only NIS 50 instead of NIS 250.

Postal rates will increase today by an average of 6%. A regular domestic letter up to 20 grams or a postcard now costs 90 agorot instead of 85 agorot; an airmail costs NIS 1.05 instead of NIS 1. A package sent to a destination inside Israel and weighing up to a kilo costs NIS 7.70 instead of NIS 7.20. The fee for registering a piece of mail is NIS 3.20 instead of NIS 3. A regular letter up to 20 gr. to the US by airmail costs NIS 1.70 instead of NIS 1.60; when sent to Europe, it costs NIS 1.40 instead of NIS 1.30. A telegram inside Israel costs NIS 15.40 instead of NIS 14.40.

Gasoline dropped in price at midnight last night.

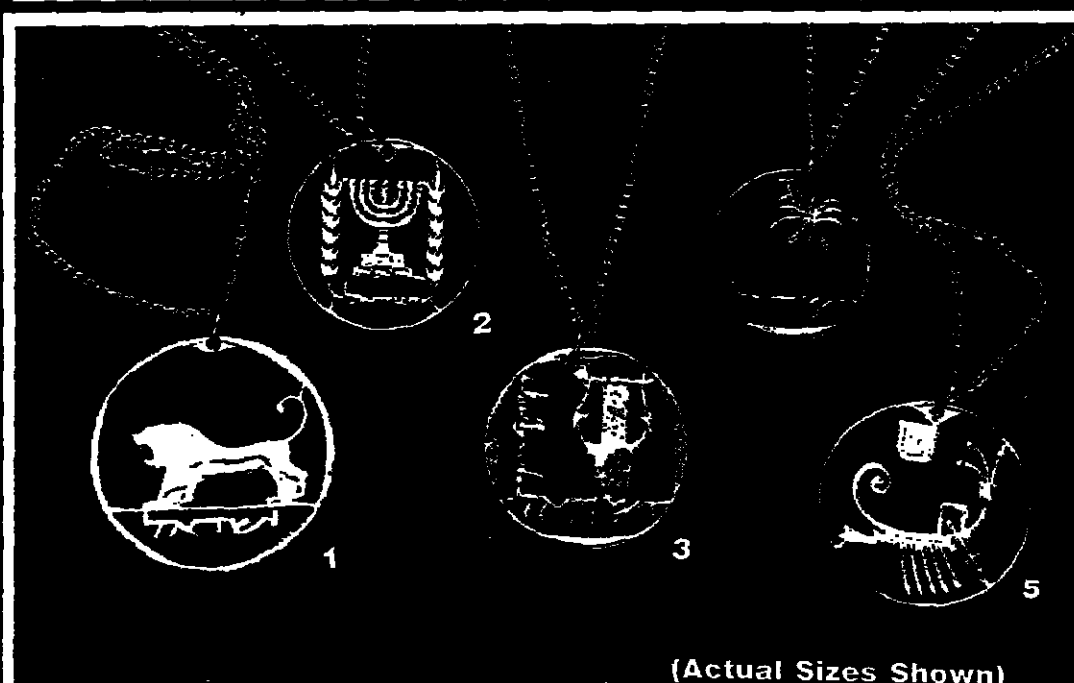
A liter of 96 octane gasoline dropped 1.4%, to NIS 2.14, from NIS 2.17, while a liter of unleaded, 95 octane gasoline also dropped 1.4%, to NIS 2.10/liter from NIS 2.13. Light industrial fuel went down by 11%, while heavy industrial fuel dropped 13.5%, and naphtha was down 6.6%.

Egg prices will drop 8%, under a price stabilization order signed yesterday by the Finance and Agriculture ministers. Size 1 eggs will

cost 32 agorot each instead of 34; size 2 eggs, 30 agorot instead of 32; size 3 eggs, 28 agorot instead of 31; and size 4 eggs, 26 agorot instead of 29.

About a year ago, a program to reduce excess egg production and eliminate administrative limits on production was implemented at a cost of NIS 135 million. The government has now found that excess production has not dropped fast enough, and has therefore decided to supplement the existing program, bring the total price support for eggs through 1996 to NIS 240m.

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